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24 PAGES 150 FILLS

Aquino in new political drive

MANILA, June 12, (AP): President Corason Aquino announced a new political movement today, fuelling speculation she will seek re-election and increasing chances of a rift in the shaky coalition that brought her to power.

Speaking at Independence Day festivities, Aquino announced the formation of the national movement she said is aimed at fostering self-reliance rather than reliance on the government and designed to ease poverty.

The president provided no detailed agenda for the "Kahisig Movement" - "shoulder-to-shoulder co-operation" in Tagalog. She did not say whether it would function as a political party and gave no indication the movement would endorse her or anyone else in the 1992 presidential election.

Advance reports, however, pictured the planned organisation as a move by Aquino to circumvent politicians who ostensibly support her but have blocked her programmes.

Last week, presidential Press Secretary Tomas Gomez said Aquino would unveil a new movement because she was disgusted with "traditional politicians" - those who represent landlords, business or other special interests.

In her speech, Aquino said she would welcome all politicians into the movement. She also chided unnamed politicians who have held up her legislation while expressing support for her.

"I am definitely telling them now, 'if you want to help, if you want an administration measure to be passed, do not wait for me to talk to you,' she said. 'Because if you really want to help me, you will pass that administration measure.'

Although pro-administration parties hold majorities in both houses of Congress, Aquino has been rebuffed by the lawmakers on several crucial issues.

"I will not allow anyone to say 'I am for Cory' but act otherwise," Aquino said. "I don't mind if I am criticised by my enemies, but what is painful and I cannot accept is that people say they are my friends but at the same time oppose my administration measures."

In announcing the new organisation, Aquino identified 13 leading members - six provincial governors, two mayors and five cabinet members. No Congressmen were mentioned.

Support from governors and mayors is considered more important than that of Congressmen in a national election because regional officials control local patronage and are in closer contact with voters.

Political commentators said Kahisig was the brainchild of a faction of cabinet advisers identified with the social democratic wing of the Roman Catholic church. The group has emerged as a pillar of the administration.

Egypt criticises Israeli remarks

CAIRO, June 12, (Reuters): Egypt criticised Israel today over what it said were aggressive remarks by a top Israeli general on the inevitability of war in the Middle East.

A statement carried by Egypt's news agency Mena quoted a government official as saying the remarks were surprising, threatening and seemed to represent an aggressive Israeli strategy in the region.

The statement was issued a day after Israel protested to Egypt over Cairo's support for anti-Israeli resolutions at an Arab summit.

The statement did not clearly identify the author of the remarks or the context but officials later said they were made by Major-General Moshe Bar Kochba.

'I'll fly again' ... but inside the plane

LONDON, June 12, (AP): The British Airways pilot sucked out of a blown-out windshield in flight said yesterday he was unconscious during part of his terrifying 15-minute ordeal and feared he was going to die.

Tim Lancaster praised crew members who clung to his ankles while co-pilot Alistair Atcheson made a steep, rapid descent and emergency landing.

"They were magnificent. If it was not for them I would not be here now," Lancaster said at Southampton General Hospital where he is recovering from frostbite, broken bones and bruises.

"I remember the buffeting of the wind," he said. "I tried to shout back at the crew but I'm sure they could not hear me."

Lancaster said he felt no pain, but when asked whether he thought he was going to die, admitted "it did cross my mind for a moment or two."

Lancaster responded to written questions submitted by reporters, and the answers were relayed by a British Airways spokesman.

Everything happened "extremely fast - frantic," he said. But when asked whether the experience would turn him away from flying, the 21-year veteran of British Airways had an emphatic "No."

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Aquino raises the Philippine flag in a ceremony at Manila's Rizal Park marking the 92nd anniversary of independence. (Reuters wirephoto)

Yeltsin strikes 'Russia sovereign'

MOSCOW, June 12, (AP): The congress of the vast Russian Federation proclaimed sovereignty today with a declaration that carried no legal force but heralded a sharp break with the central government.

Congress deputies voted 907-13 in favour of the proclamation after Boris N. Yeltsin, the president of the republic, urged them to pass it quickly so that June 12 could become "Russia's independence day."

Today's measure emerged weaker than an original proposal that would have proclaimed that Russia's sovereignty and total control of the laws on its territory would "come into force from the moment of its passage." Instead, the proclamation serves only as a political statement of intent, with no legal force.

Russian Khasbulatov, the congress' deputy chairman, said he had recommended against the stronger article himself because "it was unacceptable and would have called forth a big crash. And we needed to pass the declaration."

"I think it has great political significance for our government" and would hasten decentralisation, said Khasbulatov, a strong supporter of Yeltsin.

"It's an extraordinary event for our country for our Russia," he said. Deputies stressed that the proclamation did not amount to a declaration of independence, which could never have gathered support from the generally conservative congress. Earlier in the day, deputies

voted 704-206 not to drop the "Soviet socialist" from the formal name of the Russian Soviet Federated socialist republic.

Yeltsin has been a strong proponent of Russian sovereignty. He included it in his platform and predicted it would be declared in the first 100 days of his tenure.

The vote for the declaration was met with applause and a standing ovation. Yeltsin also stood and applauded the deputies.

A radical deputy, Mikhail Maley, said his wing "had a great desire to pass a real declaration immediately but the reality is that the congress wouldn't have accepted it."

"All Lebanese should shoulder the responsibility of Lebanon's security," Sfeir said as he emerged from a closed-door session with Hrawi at the latter's residence in the seaside area of Ramlet Al Baida.

"We hope that peace and security would prevail again in Lebanon," Sfeir added. Punte remained silent.

But political sources said Sfeir's rare direct talks with leading Muslim figures came in line with a low-profile Vatican initiative aimed at finding a settlement among Christians and Muslims.

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Kuwait govt resigns

Sheikh Saad lauds outgoing cabinet's role; Kuna chairman quits

KUWAIT, June 12, (Agencies): The government of HH the Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah resigned today, one day after the election of a new transitional National Council that will pave the way for the restoration of full democracy, an official statement said.

But, HH the Amir Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmed Al Sabah, who accepted Sheikh Saad's resignation, asked the cabinet to carry on as a caretaker government until the formation of a new cabinet.

"The National Council will carry out the task for which it has been entrusted by you, in preparing for the forthcoming phase of our democratic march," the outgoing premier said.

The outgoing cabinet was formed following the dissolution of Parliament, on July 3, 1986. The 22-member cabinet has since then carried out a dual role of legislative and executive duties in the absence of the Parliament.

Meanwhile, the head of the Kuwait News Agency, Barges Hammoud Al Barges today discounted reports that he resigned in protest against accusations he manipulated the state-run agency to favour pro-democracy activists.

The Crown Prince said that the cabinet has passed a number of major legislations and continued to take measures to eliminate the effects of the stock market crisis, activate the economic condition and raise the standard of living for the citizens, since it assumed responsibility in 1986.

He added that despite the challenges and difficulties which Kuwait faced during that period, it supported Arab and Islamic issues particularly the Palestinian problem.

He said, the cabinet tenders its resignation to give Your Highness the opportunity to take the appropriate decisions and measures to strengthen the role of the National Council in order to perform its duties.

The Crown Prince and Prime Minister thanked HH the Amir for his confidence in his cabinet that greatly helped accomplish our duties.

Sheikh Saad commended citizens on selecting their representatives to the National Council and hailed their spontaneous response to the Amir's call for active participation in the election process.

He said the process demonstrated genuineness of the Kuwaiti people, their love to

(Continued on Page 10)

Sfeir backs Hrawi

BEIRUT, June 12, (AP): Lebanon's most influential Christian cleric today declared his recognition of Syria-backed President Elias Hrawi amid reports of military buildup by rival forces vying for control of the Christian enclave.

The Maronite Catholic Patriarch, Nasrallah Sfeir, crossed the city's dividing Green Line to the Muslim western sector to meet with Hrawi, also a Maronite, at his temporary residence. It was the first such meeting since Hrawi's election Nov 24.

Officials said Sfeir, accompanied by Vatican Ambassador Paolo Pucate held separate talks with President Elias Hrawi, Prime Minister Salim Hoss and House Speaker Hussein Husseini.

"All Lebanese should shoulder the responsibility of Lebanon's security," Sfeir said as he emerged from a closed-door session with Hrawi at the latter's residence in the seaside area of Ramlet Al Baida.

"We hope that peace and security would prevail again in Lebanon," Sfeir added. Punte remained silent.

But political sources said Sfeir's rare direct talks with leading Muslim figures came in line with a low-profile Vatican initiative aimed at finding a settlement among Christians and Muslims.

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Army can be pulled out

Israeli minister suggests

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, June 12, (AP): Foreign Minister David Levy launched his term in Israel's new right-wing cabinet today by suggesting the army could withdraw from the occupied lands as part of a peace settlement.

At the same time, however, Defence Minister Moshe Arens began consulting high-ranking army officers on how to end the 30-month uprising in the

territories. One cabinet minister urged deporting uprising leaders "instead of shooting at children."

The new 19-minister coalition led by Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir of the Likud bloc was installed by parliament last night after three months of painstaking negotiations. It's made up of 10 far-right and religious factions.

The government is the 24th in Israel's history and one of the most fight-wing.

Bombs explode

13 killed in Kashmir

SRINAGAR, June 12, (Reuters): Three bombs exploded today in Srinagar, where 13 members of India's security forces were killed in bold attacks by separatist Kashmiri militants, as New Delhi imposed a curfew on the nearby Buddhist town of Leh, police said.

The bombs exploded around noon in the curfew-bound old town area of Srinagar, summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir state, where militant groups are fighting Indian rule, police said.

Indian troops cordoned off the area and refused to allow Kashmiri police near the site to investigate. Casualties or damage from the blasts could not be immediately ascertained.

The explosions followed a series of

It is the fourth to be headed by Shamir, and replaces Likud's coalition with the left-of-center Labour Party which fell in a parliamentary vote of no confidence March 15.

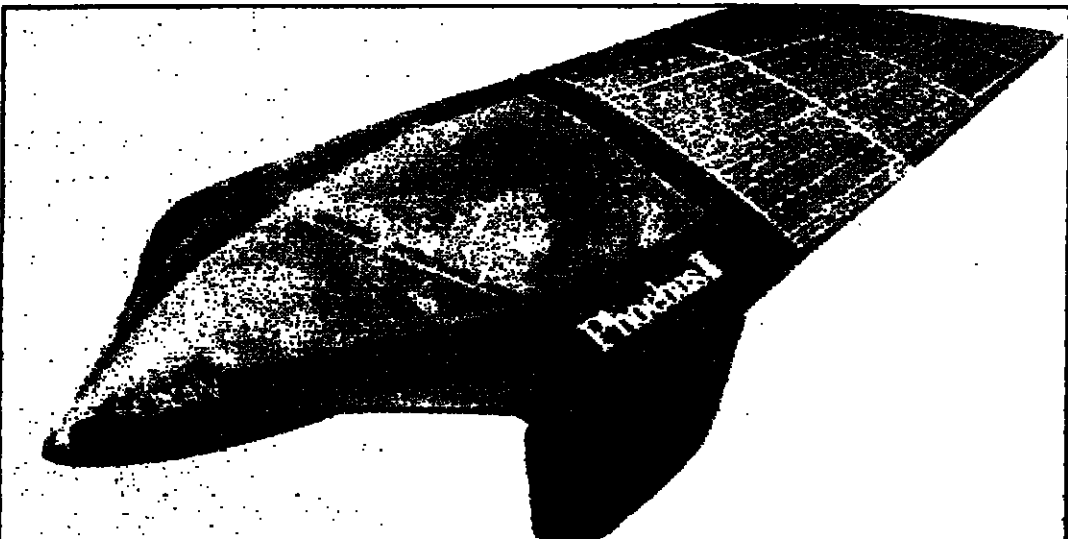
Before taking his oath, the Polish-born Shamir vowed yesterday that top priority would be given to the settling of an influx of Soviet immigrants which is expected to reach about 150,000 this year.

The Moroccan-born Levy today told reporters the government opposes Palestinian demands for statehood in the West Bank and Gaza Strip which Israel captured from Jordan and Egypt in the 1967 Middle East war.

Agriculture Minister Rafael Eitan, a former chief of staff who led Israel's forces in a 1982 invasion of Lebanon, suggested on army radio that more Palestinians be deported.

Former defence minister Yitzhak Rabin, meanwhile, threatened to depose Shimon Peres as Labour Party chairman, in light of Peres' failure to bring about a Labour-led ruling coalition.

(See early story Page 9)



Solar-powered car

A Japanese chemical firm has developed and mass produced solar batteries with the world's highest solar energy conversion efficiency, it was revealed on Tuesday.

Hovan Corp. announced that it will take part in the world solar car race in November with Phoebus 111, the world's latest solar car, that can travel an average of 100 kilometres per hour.

The World Solar Challenge 90 will be held in November on a 3,000-kilometre-long stretch between Darwin and Adelaide in Australia.

Loaded with a compact car motor which is only one tenth of an ordinary car motor, Phoebus 111's weight was cut down to 150 kilograms.

Safe ride campaigner crushed by drunken driver

ORLAND PARK, Illinois, June 12, (AP): A 58-year-old woman who championed sober driving programmes died when a jeep slammed through her house and crushed her as she slept on the living room couch.

Police charged the driver with being drunk behind the wheel. The driver had a record of drunken driving arrests and faces trial this week on an unrelated intoxicated driving charge.

Her death shows "that anyone can be a victim of drunken driving," Linda Phelps, a local mothers against drunk driving organiser, said. "It is a random crime."

Mrs Wlodarski got involved in the hotline programme because she didn't want her 16-year-old son, Marc, or his friends to become victims.

The jeep driven by William Yunker, 28, was travelling close to 70 miles (112 kms) an hour when it smashed into the Wlodarskis' home, police said.

"The vehicle went completely through the front window of the house, across the living room, pushing a couch on which Mrs Wlodarski was sleeping into a kitchen area in the back part of the house," police said.

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Tigers agree to end fighting

COLOMBO, June 12, (Reuters): The Sri Lankan government and Tamil Tiger separatist guerrillas agreed today to a ceasefire to end fighting that threatens to plunge the Indian ocean island into another civil war.

Shahul Hameed, a senior minister and Colombo's chief negotiator with the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), met rebel leaders and agreed to end hostilities from noon tomorrow, a government statement said.

"It was agreed that by 12 noon tomorrow, all acts of violence must have stopped," the statement said.

"It was agreed that every endeavour must be made by both sides to avoid situations that could give rise to confrontation or conflict," it said.

The statement was issued as Hameed returned to Colombo from the Tamil stronghold of Jaffna, 480 km (300 miles) north of the capital, after two days of talks with the Tigers to try to halt the fighting.

Tiger guerrillas killed 18 securitymen in an ambush yesterday and later overran 10 police stations, abducting 600 policemen and seizing weapons, ammunition and vehicles, military sources said.

Today they launched all-out attacks against four army camps in the eastern Batticaloa and Amparai districts, the sources said.

DAY BY DAY

NOW everything is alright. The expectations of the narrow-minded people have been proved wrong. Let's look forward to the future. Let's stand by those who expressed the true feelings of unity and one-family and provide them with the opportunity. They are the true citizens of Kuwait who have built its schools, mosques, made donations, and who have invested in their country. They are the people who feel happy with the happiness of their country and people. They are the people who honestly love their homeland and the regime without any personal interests. Let's look forward to the future and leave behind those who left the march.

Zahed Matar

ARAB TIMES
Grand Bingo
KD 250 must be won</

INTERNATIONAL

Saxena pledges to rein in security forces, new human rights approach

SRINAGAR, India, June 12, (Reuters): The new governor of Indian Kashmir has promised to rein in security forces widely accused of trampling over human rights rules in their battle against an almost unanimously supported secessionist campaign.

"Our intention is that no innocent person is hurt or harassed," Governor Girish Saxena told journalists.

Most people in the overwhelmingly Muslim Kashmir valley, as well as senior members of Saxena's Jammu and Kashmir state government, believe the task is beyond

him. "These people have had five months to do whatever they liked to whomever they liked whenever they liked. New orders are not going to change their mentality much," said a senior official, a non-Kashmiri who asked not to be identified.

The separatist campaign burst into major violence in mid-January.

Not only the paramilitary troops but the army, one of India's most respected institutions, has been widely accused here of rape, torture, brutality and theft.

Such stories abounded in the district of Kupwara, near the line that divides Jammu and Kashmir, India's only Muslim-majority state, from the one-third of the Himalayan region held by Pakistan.

Villagers in Trehgam were initially reluctant to talk to two Western reporters, saying soldiers from the nearby army base would descend on them and beat them for doing so.

The reluctance soon vanished as anger took over.

They said the army surrounded the village early on April 21 during the holy Muslim

fasting month of Ramadan, beat up many of the men and stripped some of the women in what they said was a search for militants and arms.

None was found, they said.

Six weeks later, some of the men still bore the marks of beatings they said were inflicted that day. At least eight men were still confined to bed.

Several said they had been taken to the army camp, blindfolded, beaten and given electric shocks.

A teacher said a 10-year-old pupil had been

detained for six weeks of questioning about his father, on the army wanted list. He too had been given electric shocks, said one man confined with him.

At a nearby village, waiting women said an army unit had just seized a 75-year-old man as he planted rice alongside them. No one knew where he had been taken.

Policemen in Kupwara said the army had also arrested and tortured them. One showed cuts and bruises on his back.

Another said two teenage girls were seized

the previous week and gang-raped by five soldiers. No army comment was available, but state police confirmed "excesses" were widespread.

"We get lots of complaints but there is nothing we can do," said a senior non-Kashmiri police officer. "The paramilitary lie to us, the army lies to us. We are helpless."

Saxena, appointed on May 26, said the army could only act without civilian permission in a five km (three mile) zone along the border with Pakistan. Kupwara and Trehgam lie well outside it.

Replacing one deployed in 1983

US launches Indian satellite

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida, June 12, (AP): A Delta rocket lifted an Indian communications satellite into orbit today after a year's delay because of damage first from a launch pad accident and then the California earthquake.

The unmanned rocket thundered skyward, the moon in the background, at 1:52 am (0652 GMT). About an hour later, the satellite separated from the rocket and settled into a temporary orbit 130 miles (210 kms) high.

Abid Hussain, India's ambassador to the United States, said yesterday the satellite will benefit even the poorest and most rural of India's 800 million people.

"We in India believe that science and technology could be put into the service of the people, especially those people who have been so far behind of some of the advantages of progress," said Hussain.

Plot in Farooq slaying alleged

SRINAGAR, India, June 12, (UPI): The Awami Action Committee filed today a complaint with police accusing state and central government authorities of "hatching a criminal conspiracy" that led to last month's assassination of its leader Mirwaiz Maulvi Mohammed Farooq, chief Muslim cleric of Kashmir.

The Awami Action Committee filed the eight-page complaint with police blaming the central government, state government and former state governor Jagmohan for the assassination of Farooq.

Farooq, widely perceived to be a moderate on the issue of Kashmiri independence, was assassinated by three gunmen who came to his home seeking a meeting.

The killing triggered one of the worst days of violence in the state since a simmering 2-year-old independence movement flared into a full-fledged uprising against Indian rule in mid-January.

Following the assassination, Indian security forces opened fire on a crowd of angry mourners carrying Farooq's body through the streets of Srinagar. At least 65 people were killed in the incident.

The government blamed Kashmiri militants, who have been fighting for independence from India, for the assassination of the cleric, but the militants blamed the government. Jagmohan was recalled by New Delhi following the incident.

In a complaint signed by Party Press Secretary Mohammad Yaqoob, the Awami Action Committee accused the central government, state government and former state governor Jagmohan of "hatching a criminal conspiracy resulting in the killing of Maulvi Farooq."

The document urged police to investigate "the criminal conspiracy hatched by the then governor, Jagmohan, his administration and the central government about the assassination of (the) Mirwaiz (preacher)."

The complaint asked for the truth to be unearthed and those responsible for such criminal conspiracy and the resultant assassination of Mirwaiz Maulvi Farooq be traced and brought to book."

The complaint came amid reports that security forces killed 20 others in two incidents last night. All India Radio and government sources said today.

At least 17 of those detained were arrested while trying to cross the border from Azad, or free, Kashmir in Pakistan to Jammu and Kashmir state in India.

Rebel gov surrenders

Trial judge frees Aguinaldo on bail

TUGUEGARAO, Philippines, June 12, (UPI): A provincial governor who staged an uprising after President Corazon Aquino ordered his arrest for his involvement in the December coup attempt surrendered today amid a jubilation welcome from hundreds of supporters.

Governor Rodolfo Aguinaldo, a former army colonel, posted a bail bond of 90,000 pesos (\$4,000) before a trial judge and was allowed temporary freedom while facing rebellion charges in connection with the Dec 1-9 coup attempt in which 119 people were killed.

Aguinaldo had a 1.5 million (\$68,000) bounty and had been the object of a massive hunt by government troops in Cagayan since March.

Aguinaldo, supported by his private army of hill tribesmen, seized a hotel in Tuguegarao, 220 miles (350 km) north of Manila, March 4 and took hostage Brig. Gen. Oscar Florendo. Local Government Secretary Luis Santos and other officials.

Florendo and Santos were ordered to serve an arrest warrant for Aguinaldo for saying in a radio interview he would bring armour and men to Manila in support of mutineers during the December uprising.

Florendo, the popular chief of the armed forces civil relations service, was killed in the takeover of the hotel. At least 20 Aguinaldo supporters died in the gunbattles.

Some 700 supporters welcomed Aguinaldo with placards, saying "welcome home." The mop-haired governor was mobbed and cheered by his supporters.

Justice Undersecretary Silvestre Bello said Aguinaldo will be charged soon with murder and illegal possession of firearms in the March revolt. Murder is a non-bailable offence.

Former assemblyman Homobono Adaza and journalist Cecil Arillo also showed up and posted bail Thursday after going into hiding in April after they were indicted for rebellion with murder.

Defence Secretary Fidel Ramos, in an Independence Day speech to troops, called for a new trend to reunite the country and said constant talk of army coup attempts was damaging.

Addressing troops at the army headquarters at Fort Bonifacio, Ramos called on political leaders to "bind the wounds, banish our anxieties and turn our face once more toward the sun and the future."

He said the country had "thoughtlessly and self-indulgently squandered much of its inheritance."

"We need a new consensus in order to make a new start toward real peace and prosperity," Ramos declared.

Aguinaldo's surrender followed a Supreme Court ruling last week that people involved in the coup cannot be charged with both murder and rebellion, which would deny them the right to bail. The court had said murder is absorbed in the rebellion charge, which is bailable.

"I have decided to come out since the charges have been amended," said Aguinaldo. "I can see that my supporters are still with me."

After posting bail, Aguinaldo, who looked fit and in high spirits, said he was going out for a swim.



Aguinaldo (shown above) surrendered to a judge June 12, to face rebellion charges after 100 days in hiding. (Reuters wirephoto)

Scrap tough law: Hasina

DHAKA, June 12, (Reuters): An opposition leader has demanded the scrapping of a tough security law that her father, Bangladesh's first president, introduced 15 years ago.

Sheikh Hasina, daughter of the late Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, said the present government was misusing the 1975 Special Powers Act which empowers it to arrest people without warrant and ban newspapers.

"The law is now being used by the present government as the instrument of torture and suppression of political dissent," Sheikh Hasina, the chief of the Awami League, told reporters in the southern city of Chittagong yesterday.

President Hosain Mohammad Ershad's government has arrested thousands of political activists and banned 250 newspapers and magazines in the last five years.

Home Minister Mahmudul Hasan told parliament last week the government had no wish to scrap the act because it was "very useful for controlling law and order."

Gold plates seized from boat

KUALA LUMPUR, June 12, (AP): Gold and silver plates worth 7.9 million ringgits (\$2.92 million) have been seized from a Pakistani boat travelling from Singapore to Dubai, a newspaper reported today.

Chief police officer Nordin Idris said the 14 Pakistani crew members were detained and handed over to the customs department for investigation and further action; the New Straits Times reported.

Nordin said the crew of the marine police boat EX23 stopped the boat 12 kilometres (7.2 miles) off Port Klang, 30 kilometres (18 miles) west of here in Malaysian waters of the Straits of Malacca on Friday.

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Christian Brando (right) looks back towards spectators as he talks with his lawyer, Shapiro on June 9. (Reuter wirephoto)

Brando's son may have killed over sister's lies

LOS ANGELES, June 12, (Reuter): The son of actor Marlon Brando may have shot and killed his pregnant half-sister's boyfriend because of lies she told about being "slapped around," the father of the dead man said yesterday.

Christian Brando has been charged with murdering 26-year-old Dag Drollet, the Tahitian boyfriend of Cheyenne Brando, in his father's Hollywood mansion after the two had an argument over the girl.

Detectives said the younger Brando told them the shooting occurred during a fierce quarrel after he had confronted Drollet about slapping his half-sister.

But the dead man's father, Jacques Drollet, speaking to reporters outside a Los Angeles courtroom, said Marlon Brando had told him Cheyenne was lying when she said Dag Drollet had hit her.

Marlon Brando talked to me on the phone the day

after the shooting. He said his daughter Cheyenne had been lying about Dag slapping her around. He said it was totally untrue.

"He said Cheyenne had been telling lies to Christian about Dag slapping her while she was pregnant. He said it was all lies," Drollet said.

He spoke after attending a brief court hearing for Brando in which the judge set on June 25 as the day for deciding when a preliminary hearing on the

charge would be held.

The younger Brando, handcuffed and wearing white prison overalls, did not speak.

His lawyer, Robert Shapiro, told reporters outside the court the shooting was "a horrible human event... for both families."

"Both Dag's father and Christian's father are soon to be the grandfathers of the same child," he said.

PEOPLE AND PLACES

WASHINGTON: A new study released Monday shows that the cancer rate in America continues to rise.

The National Cancer Institute's annual update says the incidence of the disease has gone up 14 per cent from 1973 to 1987 and during that time the cancer death rate increased 5 per cent.

The survey shows that lung cancer was up 31 per cent. That is believed to be due to an increase in smoking among women, which has offset the decline among males since 1965. Lung cancer in women is up 100 per cent.

The study further shows that melanoma — cancer of the skin — is also up 83 per cent, due to increased sun exposure. (Kuna)

STOCKHOLM: The Soviet Union asked Sweden on Monday to extradite 17-year-old Dmitri Semyonov who hijacked a Soviet airliner to Stockholm on Saturday.

Confirming the request, Swedish Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Birgitta Ahlen said it would take at least several weeks for legal authorities to rule on the request, which Semyonov's lawyer said would be contested.

"Of course we will do what we can to enable him to stay in Sweden," the youth's attorney, Birger Ohlsson, said, adding that Semyonov intended to seek political asylum later this week. (Reuter)

BAARN: Netherlands. After centuries of fighting back encroaching water with sea walls and dykes, the Dutch are to let large areas of their flat farmland revert to bog in an effort to re-establish wild bird and animal life.

Agriculture Minister Gerrit Braks said on Monday the government wanted to develop about 50,000 hectares (125,000 acres) of farmland into nature reserves over the next 30 years, increasing the national reserve area by one-third.

Farmers will be paid market rates for environmentally-important land and particular emphasis will be placed on wetlands, important for migrating birds.

The government has bought up wild areas and turned them into reserves in the past but this is the first time it has sponsored turning farmland back to its natural state, officials said. (Reuter)

UNITED NATIONS: Singer Olivia Newton-John, named a UN good-will ambassador for the environment on Monday, said she became interested in the subject when she realised her daughter would inherit a world "that I wasn't terribly proud of."

The British-born entertainer told a news conference she wanted to help people realise they had the power to make changes in their everyday lives to overcome environmental problems.

"I am not a scientist, but I can tell people that they can make a difference," she said before being presented with a certificate of appointment by the executive director of the Nairobi-based UN Environment Programme (UNEP), Mostafa Tolba.

MADRID: The International Press Institute (IPI) urged the Spanish government on Monday to pardon a popular sports broadcaster who faces four months in jail for insulting a regional parliamentarian.

The IPI said the sentence against Jose Maria Garcia, an outspoken radio reporter widely known as Super Garcia had worrying implications for freedom in Spain.

The sentence has caused an outcry in Spain, and journalists' associations as well as the main opposition Partido Popular (PP) have asked for a pardon.

Garcia was found guilty of contempt of the regional Parliament of Aragon after charging in 1987 that Jose Luis Roca, a member of the parliament and then president of the Spanish Football Federation, had fiddled his expenses. (Reuter)

EVANSTON, Illinois: Edna McKee, a ballet teacher who earned national recognition for her work for the Jeffrey Ballet Company and with child dancers, has died. She was 88.

Miss McKee died Thursday at the senior citizens' residence where she lived in this Chicago suburb.

The Chicago native studied in London and Paris before opening a ballet school in Chicago in 1925. The school became one of the places travelling dance companies would take lessons when in the area.

After retiring in 1964, she directed the New York-based Jeffrey Ballet Company's West Coast scholarship courses. She was also associate director in charge of children for the annual Netwerker Production at Chicago's Aris Crown Theatre for seven years until 1973. (AP)

INDO, California: an explosion ripped through a bank early Monday, engulfing the building in flames.

It was the third such blast in the region in five weeks. Firefighters doused the blaze about six hours after the 3:15 am blast at the one-story security Pacific branch, police said. There were no injuries reported and most of the money that the explosion scattered in the parking lot was recovered.



Super model '90

Yelena Boznyakova from Brest in Byelorussia, USSR, (shown top) won the title of Supermodel-90 at the All-Union model contest held in Moscow June 11. Below: Boznyakova poses with French fashion designer Thierry Mugler on June 11. (Reuter wirephoto)

Mom killed for calling son lazy

PENNSYLVANIA, June 12, (UPI): A man was being held without bail yesterday for allegedly killing his mother with a piece of exercise equipment after she accused him of being a "lazy, unemployed drug addict," police said.

Police said Raymond Winbush, 32, of the city's Germantown section, hit his mother, Mabel Winbush, 64, with a heavy metal muscle-developing device on May 30, immediately following her remark.

In a statement to police, Winbush said he stuffed his mother's body in a sleeping bag, authorities said.

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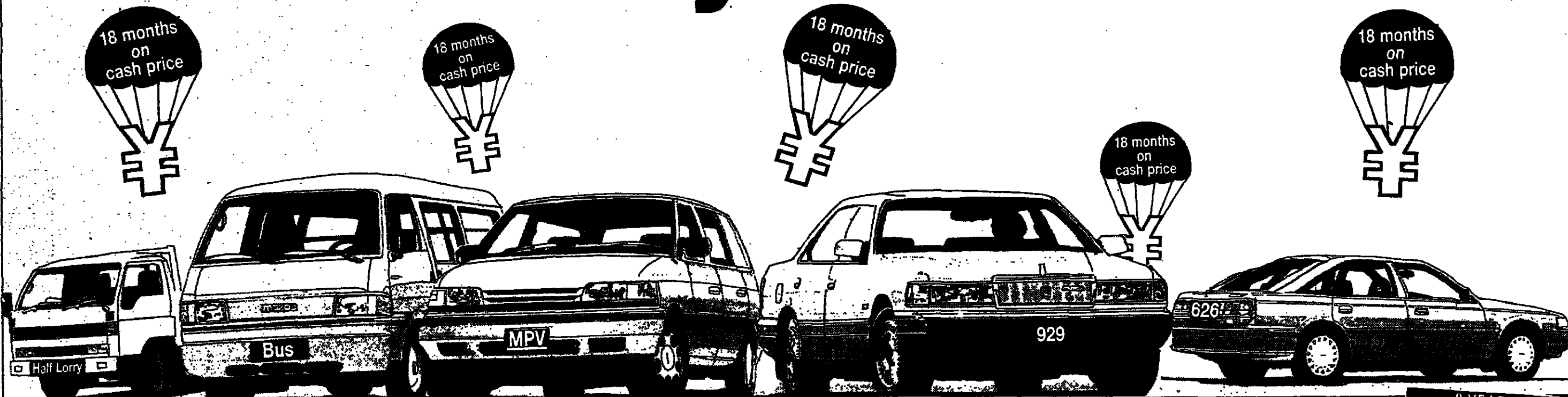
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Chamorro considering cuts

President Violeta Chamorro is considering a 40 per cent reduction in Nicaragua's Army, which under the former Sandinista government grew to be the largest in Central America, military and diplomatic sources said on Monday.

The military sources, who asked not to be identified, said a plan expected to be announced this week by Chamorro will bring a gradual 40 per cent cut in the 40,000-man permanent army.

At the height of the war against the US-backed Contra rebels, the popular Sandinista Army also

included an additional 30,000 conscripts. But the number of draftees serving in the army has fallen since Chamorro, upon taking office in April, suspended the obligatory two-year military service.

Managua-based diplomats also said Chamorro was thought to be considering a cut in the army of upwards of 40 per cent. The plan is also said to include a provision for the resignation of top army officer General Humberto Ortega, the older brother of former president and Sandinista leader Daniel

Ortega.

Above: Contra rebels wait in line to surrender arms.

Over the past weekend, several army officers who said they did not want to serve under a non-Sandinista government or who wanted to study were granted discharges from the army, the military sources said. They said the discharges were the first part of the yet-to-be announced military reduction. (Reuters wirephoto)

Leading tradesman abducted in Bolivia

LA PAZ, Bolivia, June 12, (AP): Jorge Lonsdale, one of Bolivia's leading businessmen, was abducted yesterday by hooded men and women who shot and seriously injured his driver, police said.

There was no immediate word of any demand by the abductors, police said.

Lonsdale, widely considered one of the country's richest men, is president of the Peruvian-Bolivian Chamber of Commerce and former president of the confederation of private Bolivian businesses.

He owns a Coca-Cola bottling plant and a distillery, is president of the La Paz-based Bolívar Football Team, and is a partner in the newly-launched La Razón newspaper. He has not been publicly identified with any political party. The chauffeur, who is being treated at a local clinic for two bullet wounds, told police the kidnappers spoke with a Peruvian accent that could be Peruvian.

The hooded kidnappers intercepted Lonsdale's vehicle near downtown La Paz and fired several shots at his driver. After seizing the businessman, they drove away in stolen vehicles, which were later found by police several blocks away.

"It is an attempt against the climate of peace that exists in Bolivia," said Oscar Reid, head of the ruling leftist Revolutionary Movement Party. "Bolivia is an island of tranquility in the region; this type of violence is not common to our country."

A naval attaché at the Peruvian embassy in La Paz was gunned down in January last year by a man and a woman who were later captured in Peru and identified as members of the Shining Path guerrilla movement.

In May of last year, two Mormon missionaries were murdered by members of the ultra-left Zarate Willka group. Several members of the group, including some involved in the murders, are now in jail in La Paz.

Otherwise, Bolivia has been spared the violence found in the neighbouring countries of Peru and Colombia, where kidnappings and murders are almost a daily occurrence.

■ **Chile:** Chile agreed in a pact with the United States yesterday to pay indemnities for the 1976 car-bomb slaying of exiled diplomat Orlando Letelier and a US woman in Washington.

An international commission will determine how much money the Chilean government must pay to the families of Letelier and his assistant, Ronni Moffitt.

Chile agreed to make the payment "without admitting or taking a position on the Chilean state's responsibility" for the killing, the two countries said in a joint written declaration.

■ **Dominican Republic:** President Joaquín Balaguer yesterday was declared the winner in Dominican Republic presidential elections, defeating his closest rival by a narrow margin.

Fujimori optimistic Won't negotiate with rebels

LIMA, June 12, (Reuters): Peru's President-elect, Alberto Fujimori, vowed yesterday not to negotiate with armed guerrillas and expressed confidence that he would put his country's crippled economy back on its feet.

A day after his stunning victory in Sunday's presidential elections, Fujimori, the son of Japanese immigrants, said he would tackle inflation without cutting workers' spending power and fight terrorism and the drug war without the help of foreign troops.



Fujimori shown waving to supporters in Lima, June 10 (Reuters wirephoto)

"I don't have a magic wand. But I do have the means, the economic principles," Fujimori, 51, told reporters in a suite of a five-star Lima hotel as his four children played in the corridor and squealed with laughter.

Quiet and restrained, Fujimori said he had been told of his victory by one of his four children who had seen the news on television.

"I think there are solutions to all the problems," he said.

"I am completely optimistic that the grave problems confronting Peru can be overcome. I am not afraid of any of the problems."

Fujimori's task is staggering. Peru is in the grip of a 10-year campaign by Maoist Sendero Luminoso (Shining Path) guerrillas, the economy is in chaos and the drugs industry grows 60 per cent of the world's coca — the raw material for cocaine.

Fujimori vowed not to negotiate with armed guerrillas.

"There will be no dialogue with those who are carrying arms," he said. He added that he would extend the role of the army, which would now also be expected to help rebuild the zones in the interior hit hardest by the guerrilla insurgency.

Former agronomist and university rector who was a political unknown until a couple of months ago, Fujimori overwhelmed his opponent, novelist Mario Vargas Llosa, in Sunday's election. Official results will not be ready for days.

But unofficial exit polls gave Fujimori a 20 per cent point advantage and Vargas Llosa, fronting a coalition of centrist and rightist parties, accepted defeat on Sunday night.

Some Vargas Llosa diehards, however, have been reluctant to grant Fujimori his victory.

About 300 of the novelist's supporters, many of them chanting "coup, coup, coup" gathered outside Vargas Llosa's home last night to demand the military step in to block Fujimori from power.

"We were going to get rid of Fujimori and send him back to Japan," said one of the demonstrators.

"All the dirty, ignorant and illiterate people of this country voted for the Oriental but we, the people with culture, are not going to let him come to power," said another.

Banks bet on Trump's skill

NEW YORK, June 12, (AP): Donald Trump's major bankers are betting the king of glitzy casinos and real estate can strengthen his cash-strapped empire under a tentative debt restructuring deal.

But some analysts say the flamboyant developer, whose marital as well as financial troubles have been gossip-tabloid fodder, may have to pay dearly for the breathing room by giving creditors greater control over his holdings.

Several major banks agreed over the weekend to extend \$60 million in new loans to Trump and suspend interest payments on \$2 billion in outstanding debt, banking sources familiar with the talks said yesterday.

In exchange, Trump promised to pledge as collateral some of his remaining real estate and casino assets that aren't otherwise committed to secure loans, said the sources, who spoke on condition they not be named.

Those assets include the Trump Plaza Hotel in Atlantic City, New Jersey, and the Trump Tower building in Manhattan, they said.

Trump also may have agreed to forfeit equity in other properties in return for the suspension of interest payments, and to make changes in his lavish, high-profile lifestyle, according to a



Donald Trump

report in yesterday's Wall Street Journal, which first reported on the tentative bank deal.

But the journal article said Trump balked at a bank proposal to secure the \$60-million loan with the apartment portfolio of his father, Fred Trump, who amassed a fortune in real estate and first taught the junior Trump the art of the deal.

The banks hope to give Trump more time to restructure his operations while he waits out New York City's real estate slump and the downturn in the Atlantic City gambling market, analysts said.

Pan Am: Lack of evidence

WASHINGTON, June 12, (AP): The Justice Department said yesterday it lacked evidence to file charges in the 1988 bombing of Pan Am flight 103, although it reported making "significant progress" in its investigation.

The statement contrasted with optimism expressed last month by Federal Bureau of Investigation director William Sessions, who told reporters he was confident the investigation would be successfully completed.

The Justice department issued the statement in Washington after Attorney General Dick Thornburgh, beginning a six-day trip in Europe, met in Edinburgh, Scotland, with top Scottish law enforcement officials about the case.

Law enforcement authorities believe that the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, General Command, planted a bomb that was traced to a suitcase recovered after the blast.

Thornburgh, who met yesterday with Scottish Lord Advocate Peter Fraser, plans to travel on to Stockholm for discussions with Swedish officials about the case.

Fraser and Thornburgh "agreed that while the investigation had made significant progress, evidence needed for a successful prosecution is not yet in hand."

Ringleaders arrested

Alien-smuggling operation uncovered

FAIRHOPE, Alabama, June 12, (AP): Federal agents have charged 62 Chinese citizens with being illegal aliens smuggled into the country as part of a scheme linked to deposed Panamanian dictator Manuel Antonio Noriega.

Two alleged ringleaders also were arrested. Federal agents said a probe uncovered a multimillion-dollar alien-smuggling operation run by officials linked to Noriega.

While prosecutors have no firm evidence linking Noriega or his lieutenants to the ring, "there's a real strong possibility" they were involved, said US

customs agent Gary Small. Noriega is awaiting trial on drug charges in Florida.

Immigration officials said last week that tens of thousands of immigrants had paid Noriega millions of dollars to use his nation as an illegal gateway to the United States and Canada.

US Immigration and Naturalization officials said authorities had enough evidence to indict Noriega, but didn't want to interfere with the drug case.

The alien-smuggling operation hit yesterday charged Chinese citizens \$10,000 to \$20,000 each to

get into the United States, said customs and INS officials.

Authorities said the operation could have netted its organizers more than \$200 million.

An estimated 95,000 Chinese live in Panama, and about 35,000 want to come to the United States, INS agent Henry Berwald said.

The 62, arrested in two groups after landing at the airport in this southern Alabama yesterday and Saturday, were believed to have been headed for Mobile, New York, Los Angeles, Miami, Atlanta, Detroit and other major cities.

Stern warning to US officials

Poindexter sentence

WASHINGTON, June 12, (Reuters): Former White House adviser John Poindexter faces a six-month prison term for Iran-Contra felonies in a stern warning to government officials that they cannot put their private views of the national interest above the law.

Poindexter, the highest-ranking member of the Reagan administration to face trial in the scandal over the plan to sell arms to Iran and funnel the profits to Nicaraguan rebels, is also the only one of seven Iran-Contra felons to be punished with jail time.

The stony-faced retired admiral remains free for 10 days following sentencing on Monday, while his lawyers prepare his appeal. He was found guilty in federal court on April 7.

Poindexter made no comment in court and has never shown any remorse for his part in the Iran-Contra plan.

The five charges of which he stands convicted — two counts of lying to Congress, two of obstructing Congress and one of conspiring to cover up the Iran-Contra affair — could have earned maximum penalties of 25 years in prison and \$1.25 million in fines.

However, judge Harold Greene imposed a prison sentence to deter others who might be tempted to commit such crimes.

A light sentence "could not help but encourage others in positions of authority and secrecy to frustrate laws that fail to accord with their notions of what is best for this country, and to carry out their own private policies in the name of the United States," Greene said.

He imposed no fine, judging that this would be a "crushing burden" on Poindexter and his family.

Greene said he gave a "short sentence because of Poindexter's distinguished navy career, his exemplary conduct in court and because his crimes were comparable to those committed by other Iran-Contra felons who served no jail time."

Chief among these was Poindexter's White House aide, Oliver North, who was sentenced to two years' probation, 1,200 hours community service and a \$150,000 fine.

North, a retired Marine Lieutenant Colonel, was a key prosecution witness against his former boss, testifying grudgingly that he kept Poindexter informed of the 1985-86 plan to sell arms to Iran — an avowed enemy of the United States — and to funnel the profits to the Nicaraguan Contra rebels despite a congressional ban on such aid.

The star witness for the defence was former president Ronald Reagan, who was never charged in the case.



Poindexter greets supporters on his way to court on June 11 in Washington. (Reuters wirephoto)

French minister backs call

Reopen brothels

PARIS, June 12, (Reuters): A French government minister backed a leading woman politician today in demanding that France reopen its once-renowned brothels — closed 44 years ago by a feminist campaigner.

Bernard Kouchner said in an open letter that brothels should be legalised again to help contain Aids.

"We should prefer to have the commerce of love take place somewhere decent rather than behind a filthy bush," Kouchner, minister for humanitarian affairs, said in the letter published in Le Figaro.

The availability of water and regular medical checks on women working in brothels would help halt the spread of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (Aids), he said.

Kouchner, a junior, but high-profile minister, mainly co-ordinates French disaster aid.

Former health minister Michele Barzach last week suggested bringing back legal whorehouses as a means of combating Aids, touching off a debate among leading politicians, police chiefs and medical experts.

Aids has hit France harder than any other West European nation and there is growing concern about infection from transvestite prostitutes, often drug users.



Barry leaves US District Court with his mother after the sixth day of jury selection on June 10. (Reuters wirephoto)

No plea deal, says Barry

WASHINGTON, June 12, (UPI): Mayor Marion Barry batted aside persistent reports he would publicly abandon plans for a fourth mayoral term in order to halt his federal drug and perjury trial, saying, "there's no plea bargaining going on."

As jury selection began its second week yesterday, Barry adamantly denied widespread news reports he was seeking a plea agreement with federal prosecutors to avoid a trial on 14 drug and perjury charges.

"There's no plea bargaining going on, there never has been," Barry said yesterday at the end of day six in his trial's jury selection process.

When asked about his political future, he only

told reporters, "there will be a press conference when I have something to say — next week, next month."

The Washington Post reported today that Barry, no longer hopeful of a possible deal with prosecutors, informed 10 close supporters and aides of his decision on the November elections at a meeting Sunday.

The move to abandon his campaign, an unidentified source told the newspaper, would convey to potential jurors the image that he was being forced out of politics by the federal government.

"There is no question that he's going to get out," a source who attended the meeting said. "If (the announcement) will be soon."

Hawkins killers sentenced to prison

NEW YORK, June 12, (AP): Two members of a bat-wielding white mob received maximum sentences yesterday for the shooting death of a black teenager. The case had inflamed racial tensions in New York City.

Outside the courthouse after the first sentencing, a chant rose up despite the maximum sentence: "Should have been life, should have been life."

Joseph Fama was sentenced to 32 and two-thirds years to life in prison for his conviction on murder and other charges. Keith Mondello, the reputed ringleader of the bat-wielding mob who was convicted of lesser offences, was sentenced to the maximum five and one-third to 16 years in prison.

"Without Mr Mondello, there would not have been the death of anyone. It was a senseless death," said state Supreme Court Justice Thaddeus Owens.

Later in the day, as Owens delivered Fama's sentence in the packed courtroom, Moses Stewart, the father of slain teenager Yusuf Hawkins, watched intently and whispered loudly, "yes."

Mondello was acquitted of murder and manslaughter charges, but convicted of riot, unlawful imprisonment and discrimination in the Aug 23 incident that spurred racial tensions in the city. Fama was convicted of murder and several lesser charges including riot, unlawful imprisonment and illegal weapons possession.

As Fama's sentence was delivered, supporters of Hawkins' family applauded while members of Fama's family screamed in Italian and wept.

Mondello and Fama were tried together before two juries. Hawkins and three friends were accosted after they went to the Bensonhurst neighbourhood in Brooklyn. The whites apparently believed the blacks had come there to attend a party for Mondello's former girlfriend; in fact, Hawkins and his friends were there to look at a used car.

In arguing for the stiffest sentence possible for Mondello, assistant district attorney Paul Burns said, "I think it is clear from the verdict that was returned that Mr Mondello played a pivotal role in organising the riot that led to the death of Yusuf Hawkins."

Assistant district attorney Edward Boyar also urged a maximum sentence for Fama, saying the sentence must make clear to the city "that the system does work."

Vote on Meech accord

ST JOHN'S, Newfoundland, June 12, (Reuters): Newfoundland Premier Clyde Wells, the last provincial leader in Canada still opposed to an accord recognising French-speaking Quebec as a distinct society, said yesterday he would leave the pact's fate in the hands of his legislators.

Wells' announcement places the accord, named after the Quebec resort of Meech Lake where it was originally hammered out, in serious jeopardy as its survival depends on the unanimous approval of all the provinces.

Wells did not say when the vote would take place, but it appears he will hold it very close to the accord's June 23 ratification deadline to give the legislators time to consult with their constituents.

Canada's nine other premiers have agreed to ratify the accord by June 23 to mollify Quebec and contain its separatist movement, but Wells refused to be cowed by the threat that its failure might lead to the dissolution of the confederation.

Oil tanker begins to buckle

Fire-fighters race to cool the deck for foam application

GALVESTON, Texas, June 12. (AP): Coast guard officials said today that the fire-ravaged supertanker in the Gulf of Mexico was beginning to buckle as firefighters raced to cool the searing deck to allow use of fire-smothering foam on the vessel.

"We don't believe the structure is going to be able to take much more of this intense heat," said coast guard petty officer Howard Holmes. "The integrity of the vessel is definitely being threatened."

As waves broke over the rear of the Mega Borg carrying 38 million gallons (144 million litres) of oil, Holmes said a part of the Norwegian ship showed signs of buckling because of the intense 900-degree-Fahrenheit (482 degrees Celsius) blaze, the shifting cargo and the continuous stream of water being poured on the hull.

More oil, some of it ablaze, spilled into the water about 57 miles (92 kms) southeast of Galveston. Coast guard officials estimated that as of Monday as much as 100,000 gallons (380,000 litres) of light crude has leaked.

The foaming operation was delayed Monday because six fireboats spraying water couldn't keep the tanker's deck cool enough to prevent a flash fire or new explosions. Fireboats continued pouring water on the hull today.

The stern has dropped more than 60 feet (18 metres) since the Norwegian tanker was crippled early Saturday by explosions and fire. The drop indicated either that the cargo had shifted or the ship was taking water, officials said.

The dropping stern "increases the danger of sinking but only incrementally," coast guard chief petty officer Todd Nelson said. "We are not talking right now about sinking."

Bob Schuller, a naval architect in Houston, said the dropping added pressure on the ship's structure. He said he did not know the extent of damage but speculated the pressure could crack the ship or sink it.

The Mega Borg carries more than three times as much oil as was spilled by the Exxon Valdez off Alaska in March 1989 in the nation's worst oil spill.

Authorities, however, noted the oil spilled in Alaska was heavy crude, which doesn't dissipate nearly as rapidly as the light crude aboard the Mega Borg. Also, much of the oil spilling off Texas was being consumed by fire.

The initial explosions occurred Saturday as the tanker was transferring some of its cargo of African light crude to a smaller vessel. Two of the 41 crewmen died, two were missing and presumed dead and 17 were injured, none seriously.

"It certainly isn't good," Holmes said. "That's why it's so important this foam application works."

"If they don't get the fire out we could be in for a disastrous situation," he said.

Holmes said he was uncertain how extensive the damage was. Crews had not yet determined when they would try to apply the foam in an attempt to smother the fire, he said.

Yesterday, the coast guard said there was a slightly increased chance the nearly 886 foot (270 metre) ship would sink in the Gulf of Mexico after its rear dipped below the surface.



Fire boats pump water onto the raft end of a slowly sinking supertanker Mega Borg, on Monday, as salvage crews make a desperate attempt to save the stricken tanker 57 miles southeast of Galveston, Texas. (Reuters wirephoto)

Italy to withdraw candidacy

ROME, June 12. (Reuters): Italy bowed to a world-wide protest campaign today and withdrew Venice as a candidate to host the Expo 2000 world fair.

The decision was announced to parliament by Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti, two days before a Paris-based organisation meets to choose Venice, Hanover or Toronto to host the world fair.

A majority of Italian politicians and Venice lovers around the world have said the ancient canal city would collapse under the strain of hosting hundreds of thousands of extra tourists if the Expo 2000 were staged there.

Andreotti told the Senate (upper house of parliament) that the government "has reached the conviction not to confirm to the international exhibitions office the candidacy of Venice as a site for Expo 2000."

A motion asking the government to withdraw support for Venice was due to have been debated by both houses of parliament tomorrow.

Despite opposition at home and abroad, the Italian government, enthusiastically backed by big business, had till now maintained its bid for Venice as the star attraction of a region-wide Expo 2000.

Andreotti's announcement preempted a decision in Paris on Thursday that defenders of the historic, 1,200-year-old city had seen as crucial to its future.

Opponents of the fair say Venice could collapse under the strain. Some 175,000 more visitors than the usual peak of 60,000 were expected to visit the city daily if the four-month fair was held there.

I'll spare civilians in rebel defence

Army will not kill innocents: Doe

MONROVIA, June 12. (Reuters): Liberian President Samuel Doe, his army accused of killing civilians as it tries to fend off a rebel assault, says he will not kill "innocent people" to defeat the invasion.

"I will not join (rebel leader) Charles Taylor to kill innocent people, kill children," Doe said in a television interview today.

"What we have been trying to do is to make sure that the army do not kill innocent people... rebels are only doing the killing and destruction."

The interview, granted to two US television networks and filmed by state television, was given as Doe's government sent a delegation to meet Taylor's National Patriotic Front of Liberia for peace talks in neighbouring Sierra Leone.

The government also announced yesterday it had arrested a major and two army lieutenants suspected of killing a leading sculptor and two of his friends over the weekend.

The bodies of sculptor and university professor J. Banjah Richards, James Coleman and Butler Freeman were piled in Monrovia's overcrowded morgue yesterday where about a dozen mutilated corpses were stacked on tables or lying on the floor.

A government communiqué said Major Henry Johnson and two unnamed officers would face murder charges for the deaths of the elderly men who were taken away by soldiers on Saturday and whose bodies were later found dumped by a river.

Diplomats, relief workers and witnesses say hundreds of civilians have been systematically killed by both sides.

The rebels launched their invasion from neighbouring Ivory Coast six months ago but the conflict has degenerated into a bloody tribal war between Gios and Manos supporting Taylor and Doe's Krahn tribe. Mandingos are seen as allied with Doe.

Doe, a former army master sergeant who seized power in a bloody 1980 coup, again vowed not to resign under the rebel onslaught.

"I am not going to resign and I will be here until peace returns to this country," Doe said.

The Liberian Council of Churches, attempting to mediate, has formulated a three-point peace plan calling for a ceasefire followed by roundtable talks and provisions to ensure the safety of all involved in the conflict.

But Taylor, a former Doe associate, has demanded the president's resignation as a precondition to peace talks.

The rebel leader, who fled Liberia in 1983 to escape charges of embezzling \$900,000, told the French newspaper Le Figaro: "My objectives are fixed and will not change. Samuel Doe must go."

A chartered plane arrived yesterday in Charleston, South Carolina carrying about 350 Americans who fled the civil war in Liberia, where rebels are trying to topple the government of Doe.



Rebel forces belonging to Charles Taylor display arms as they stand to attention after retaking the town of Buchanan in a picture taken June 6.



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Cruise ship

Oil spill threatens Cape Cod

BOSTON, June 12. (AP): Cleanup crews yesterday anxiously watched choppy seas and stiff winds delay efforts to unload thousands of gallons of fuel that threaten to spill from the torn hull of the cruise ship Bermuda Star.

The 617-foot (188-metre) vessel was freed Sunday night from a rocky ledge off Cape Cod, almost 13 hours after it strayed too close to shore and ran aground in dense fog.

Divers found a 90-by-2-foot (27-by-0.6-metre) tear on the ship's bottom after it dropped anchor about 3 miles (4.8 kilometres) from the ledge in Buzzard's Bay. The rip exposed four tanks holding more than 110,000 gallons (418,000 litres) of fuel oil, the coast guard said.

About 1,500 gallons (5,700 litres) of fuel leaked before a containment boom was put around the ship, and the tear left the potential for more oil to spill, the coast guard said.

Up to 1,000 gallons (3,800 litres) of fuel washed ashore at Naushon Island in Buzzards Bay yesterday, coast guard Cmdr Larry Doyle said at an afternoon news conference in Providence, Rhode Island.

Forest fires rage in Greece

KAPANDRITI, Greece, June 12. (Reuters): A forest fire which officials blamed on arson swept down on this resort north of Athens yesterday, burning five houses and a paper factory. No casualties were reported.

About 20 fire engines and three fire-fighting airplanes fought the blaze across a 1.5 km (one mile) front near Kapandriti, a resort in pine forests 34 km (21 miles) north of Athens.

"Strong winds make it very difficult to control the fire which is certainly due to arson," a fire brigade officer said.

Telephone lines and electricity were cut and houses evacuated in the town, which was partly destroyed by a similar fire last year.

Similar fires have scorched the islands of Crete and Evvoia, where the fire department estimated about 1,500 acres (600 hectares) of forest have been burned out.

November 17 rebels claim rocket attack against Procter and Gamble

ATHENS, June 12. (Reuters): A Greek guerrilla group claimed responsibility today for a rocket attack against the offices of a US firm and police said they fear more assaults in the future.

There were no casualties in the attack on the Procter and Gamble offices in central Athens early yesterday.

Police said the extreme-left November 17 group used a 50-year-old bazooka launcher stolen from a museum and a modern missile stolen from an army depot.

The guerrillas claimed responsibility in a letter sent to the left-wing newspaper Epikrotita. Police said the attack appeared to be a test run because the explosive warhead of the missile was removed causing only a small hole in the building.

"We are now waiting for the real hit. Embassies, state and police buildings, private companies, aircraft and oil refineries are among possible targets," a senior police officer told Reuters.

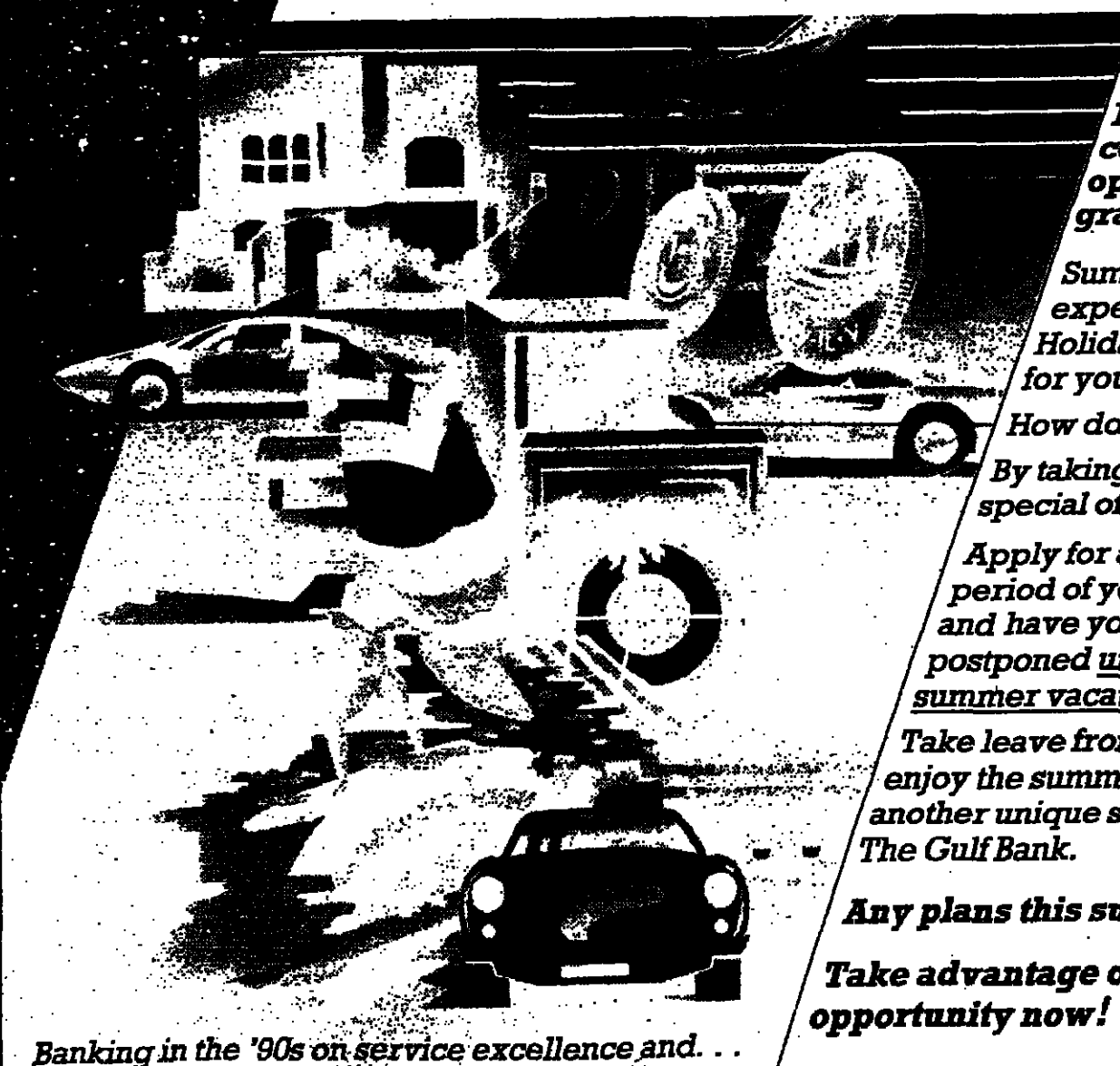
It was the first rocket attack by November

17, an elusive group specialising in bombings and political assassinations, which has killed 14 Greeks and Americans since 1975.

November 17 said its latest raid was against a decision last month by the new conservative government to close down or sell to the private sector 49 debt-ridden state firms in order to reduce huge public deficits.

It accused Procter and Gamble of buying one of those firms without paying its debts "at the expense of the Greek people."

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NEWS IN BRIEF

America

American woman confesses: An American microbiologist, identified at court as Baby Girl Landau, 41, confessed Tuesday that she had tried to smuggle about three kilograms (6.6 pounds) of heroin to New York, police said.

Ms Landau, of New York City, told the court a day after her arrest at Lanza airport that she was offered \$30,000 by two Lebanese men in return for carrying the drugs to New York, the police report said.

Police were looking for the men, but the report did not disclose their names.

Ms Landau was arrested just before boarding a flight for Athens and New York. Police found the drugs hidden in plastic bags taped to her legs and hips. (AP)

Columbia, back for repairs: For only the fourth time in 36 flights, US space officials on Tuesday moved a space shuttle off the launch pad for repairs.

Shuttle Columbia was hauled back to its assembly building for repairs to a fuel leak that grounded the ship only six hours before blast-off last month. The countdown was stopped on May 29 when launch pad sensors detected hydrogen propellant seeping into the shuttle's engine area. The shuttle could have exploded if the valve had broken in flight.

Columbia's 10-day mission with a \$148 million cargo of telescopes called the astro observatory has been postponed at least until mid-August. (Reuters)

Problems nag Hubble telescope: Problems continue to nag the Hubble space telescope nearly seven weeks after its launching.

The telescope still vibrates each time it passes from day to night and night to day, and it loses its electronic memory whenever it moves over a region off Brazil known as the South Atlantic anomaly.

The problems can be overcome, Jean Olivier, one of NASA's top telescope engineers, said on Monday. The vibration of the giant solar arrays, which convert sunlight into electricity, has been plaguing engineers as they go through a painstaking eight-month check and calibration period. (AP)

Nuclear test at Nevada: Scientists on Wednesday plan to detonate the second announced underground nuclear weapons test of the year at the Nevada test site, the Department of Energy said in Las Vegas.

The test, with a yield of between 20 and 150 kilotons, may be felt in high-rise buildings as far away as Las Vegas, 85 miles (136 kilometres) from the blast site, the DOE said. Workers were warned not to be in precarious positions at the time of detonation.

Barring weather problems or technical difficulties, the DOE said the weapon will be detonated at 9 am (1600 GMT), some 2,200 feet (671 metres) beneath the surface of Pahute Mesa. (AP)

Americans favour environ curbs: Four of five Americans say pollution threatens the quality of their lives, and most favour a tough counteroffensive that would outlaw disposable diapers and cancer-causing pesticides, a poll has found.

Respondents to the National Media General-Associated Press survey favoured an array of tough new restrictions, including bans on foam plastic fast-food containers and excessive packaging of consumer products.

Of those who live in neighbourhoods where recycling is not mandatory, nine in 10 said they would support such a rule. And nearly seven in 10 supported creation of an elected post in each state to enforce environmental law. (AP)

Asia

Perth movement against Asians: A Perth district court was told Monday that the white supremacy group Australian Nationalist Movement (ANM) was a neo-Nazi organisation that had planned a campaign of violence to drive Asians out of Australia.

Crown counsel Graeme Scott told the court that the organisation began its campaign in Perth where it terrorised Asians and vandalised property. He said the group had operated out of a paramilitary-style bunker east of Perth which had a shooting range, an arsenal of firearms and protective sandbagging.

Scott was speaking on the first day of the trial of ANM leader Jack Van Tongeren and five of his followers. The six, described by Scott as the group's hierarchy, face 197 individual charges for a string of alleged offences, including the firebombing of Chinese restaurants. (AP)

Japanese discuss sales tax: The Japanese parliament, Diet, Tuesday started discussing proposals for either amending or cancelling the sales tax imposed in April last year.

Premier Toshiki Kaifu told parliament that he was determined to amend the tax law and that he will strongly support a government proposal to amend that law.

At the same time, the Socialist Party and other opposition parties tabled a number of proposals aimed at cancelling the tax. (Kuna)

New China anti-crime campaign: Public Security Minister Wang Fang announced Monday that the central government has ordered a new campaign against crime, focusing on murder and other serious offences.

A large number of "suspected serious offenders" already have been detained since the campaign began in late May, the official Xinhua news agency quoted Wang as saying. He did not give figures.

The number of official media reports of arrests and executions has increased sharply in the past two weeks leading to suspicion that such a campaign had been launched. (AP)

Crackdown on grave robbing: Government officials have called for a crackdown on persistent grave robbing across China by organised gangs that steal artifacts from ancient tombs and sometimes blast their way in with explosives, the state-run press reported Tuesday.

The semi-official China news service, quoting police and officials of the national cultural relics department, reported that tomb break-ins and grave robbing "have spread unchecked for many years and have become rampant recently."

Bao's Hui Muslim minority group makes up one-third of the 4.5 million population of Ningxia region in China's remote north. Long an economically disadvantaged group, Huis like Bao are determined that the community will prosper.

His South Gate Mosque in April set what may be a precedent by forming a company to help market goods to Islamic customers overseas.

"We think the mosque can help promote the factories. After all, many foreign dignitaries and businessmen come to our mosque every year," Bao said.

The mosque will act as a much-needed link with the outside world, he said. Yinchuan, the capital of Ningxia, was closed to foreigners until the early 1980s.

Still a backwater, regional authorities are eager to lure foreign trade and investment. Ningxia's chief industrial advantage is an abundant supply of coal, so unlike other parts of China, it rarely suffers power



Cachalla returns

Veteran African National Congress activist Mohl Cachalla returned to South Africa on Monday after 26 years in India. He worked closely with ANC leader Nelson Mandela in anti-apartheid campaigns of the 1950s and 1960s. (Reuters wirephoto)

Hashimoto advocates

Have more babies

TOKYO, June 12, (UPI): Japanese women have too much education and too few babies, the nation's finance minister reportedly told his fellow cabinet members today.

During a cabinet discussion on Japan's falling birthrate, Ryutaro Hashimoto blamed the trend on women's increasing tendency to seek higher education, according to local news reports.

Hashimoto reportedly suggested the government limit access to higher education as a way to reverse the birthrate trend.

Officials in the Finance Ministry deflected inquiries, but an official in the Health and Welfare Ministry, speaking on condition of anonymity, told United Press International the reports were accurate.

Japan, with one of the lowest birthrates in the world, now has only 1.57 children per household. Less than a fifth of the population is under 20, and the proportion is falling steadily.

Malaysia scraps dam project: Malaysia said Tuesday it is scrapping plans for a 10-billion-ringgit (\$3.69 billion) hydroelectric project that environmental groups said would have wiped out rain forests and animals.

Prime Minister Mahatir Mohamad told the international conference on conservation of tropical biodiversity that the decision was for the sake of the environment, even though the project would have supplied Malaysia with large amounts of cheap electricity.

The project, first announced in 1985, called for damming the Rajahmundry river, which would have flooded 637 square kilometres (246 square miles) in Sarawak state on Borneo Island, forcing the evacuation of people in the area.

Friends of the Earth and other environmental groups protested. (AP)

Africa

Africa on road to disaster: The head of the UN food agency warned Africa on Monday it was on the path to total destruction of its natural resources. Edouard Saouma, director-general of the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), told an agency conference on Africa that the continent faced "an extremely serious threat of accelerated, continent-wide environmental decline with the inevitable outcome in the long term of total depletion."

In an opening speech to delegates from 51 states, he said there was a widening gap between agricultural production, which grew at two per cent over the last decade, and population, which grew at three per cent. (Reuters)

Mozambique peace talks: Mozambican officials and a rebel leader arrived in neighbouring Malawi on Tuesday for their first direct peace talks aimed at ending a devastating 13-year-war, the national news agency reported.

Afonso Dhlakama, commander of the Mozambique National Resistance, arrived in Blantyre, Malawi's capital, the AIM news agency said in a dispatch from its correspondent in Malawi.

The Mozambique government delegation includes Foreign Minister Pascoal Mocumbi and Transport Minister Armando Guebaze, both members of the political bureau of the ruling Frelimo Party, AIM said. (AP)

Call to cut off fingers: A loyal member of Kenya's ruling party says people who call for a multi-party system by making two-finger salutes should have the offending fingers cut off.

In recent months, a two-finger salute in Kenya, which has a single political party, has come to signal a call for pluralism. (AP)

Thais patch rift but conflict remains

Chatichai leaves for US despite possible crisis

BANGKOK, June 12, (AP): The government and military have patched a threatening rift exposed by the abrupt resignation from the cabinet of the country's most powerful general, but underlying tensions remain, soldiers, officials and diplomats said today.

Gen. Chavalit Yongchaiyudh resigned yesterday as defence minister and deputy prime minister as Prime Minister Chatichai Choonhavan was preparing for an important official visit to the United States.

Over the past week, Chavalit's oppo-

nents have accused him and his family of corruption. This came in response to Chavalit's accusations of massive corruption in the government.

In his resignation letter, Chavalit said: "Present circumstances do not allow me to carry on serving my country in the spirit I intended."

Chatichai left for the United States earlier today despite a possible crisis caused by the resignation.

Yesterday morning, thousands of officers and men had rallied at army bases

in Bangkok and the provinces in support of Chavalit.

There were worries the army might attempt a coup, although some military sources insisted this method of power transfer was a thing of the past in Thailand.

The Bangkok Post's editorial said Chavalit's resignation "precipitated a crisis that threatened the government's political stability," and urged him and military commanders to show restraint.

The nation, in a front-page commentary, criticised the military show of force as

"undemocratic" and "a serious threat to our fragile democracy."

Before leaving, Chatichai held a series of hastily arranged meetings with top military commanders in an effort to defuse the situation. He also obtained an audience with constitutional monarch King Bhumibol Adulyadej, who is considered the stabilising force in Thai politics.

The generals pledged their support for Chatichai, but some analysts warned the issue was likely to resurface in one week when Chatichai returns from Washington.

Jiang calls for Taiwan dialogue

BEIJING, June 12, (AP): Communist Party General Secretary Jiang Zemin said yesterday that direct trade and communications links should be established with Taiwan before the two sides hold formal talks on reunification.

He also insisted such talks should be between the communists and the rival Nationalist Party on Taiwan, rather than between the two governments, as Taiwan officials proposed.

Jiang's speech on reunification with Taiwan was the communist leadership's first detailed response to last month's proposal by President Lee Tung-hui of the Nationalist government on Taiwan for government contacts in trade, academia, science and other fields.

The Nationalists have ruled Taiwan, an island province of China, since fleeing there in 1949. They were defeated by the communists in a civil war on the mainland.

For four decades, the Nationalists maintained a policy called the "three nos" — no contact, no compromise and no negotiations. Lee's proposal to drop that policy was considered a major initiative in Taiwan, but Beijing's only immediate response was a curt comment by the official Xinhua news agency that Lee was trying to create "two Chinas."

Jiang's remarks acknowledge the concession Lee was making. "We appreciate his comments," Jiang told a meeting of the United Front Department, which is charged with trying to persuade non-communist forces to work with the communists. Xinhua carried excerpts of the speech.

Jiang said the first step should be establishment of direct mail, trade, air and shipping links across the Taiwan Straits.

"The specific problems that emerge in the exchange process may be dealt with through consultations between appropriate authorities," he said.

Only then should formal party-to-party negotiations on reunification be started, and other parties, social groups and individuals should be consulted and even attend, Jiang said.

Police song

A singer from the Armed Police song and dance unit, sings out a tune honouring "Lei Feng," the socialist hero, during a street performance yesterday.

The show is part of an ongoing effort to enlist support for the Asian Games scheduled for September as the government hopes to woo back tourists lost after last year's turmoil. (Reuters wirephoto)

Sanctions must remain: Mandela

Repression continues, say activists

BONN, June 12, (Agencies): Nelson Mandela told thousands of cheering supporters yesterday that the ANC, not the South African government, deserves credit for ongoing attempts to find peace and urged people to maintain the pressure for economic sanctions.

"Sanctions were introduced at the insistence of the African National Congress for the purpose of removing apartheid in all its forms," Mandela told an estimated 4,000 people crowded outside the headquarters of the opposition West German Social Democratic Party, which invited Mandela to visit.

"The idea was to ensure all people of South Africa — black and white — are able to determine their own affairs... to ensure a non-racial, democratic and united South Africa," Mandela said. "We are still very far from that."



West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl (right) poses with Nelson Mandela, deputy president of the African National Congress (ANC), before a meeting yesterday. Mandela is on the fourth leg of a world tour aimed at persuading governments to maintain anti-apartheid sanctions against South Africa. (Reuters wirephoto)

Singapore offered new style of govt

Next premier

SINGAPORE, June 12, (AP): A change in government style is promised for Singapore when Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew steps aside after 31 robust years.

Plans call for first Deputy Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong, 48, to take over later this year, sometime after Lee's 67th birthday on Sept 16.

Using a consultative leadership style, Goh says, he expects to preside over a more open society with the goal of making Singapore a "great small nation."

Lee is not passing completely from the scene, however, and his influence is expected to remain intact. Goh intends to have him in the cabinet as a senior minister without portfolio.

"Those who believe that when I have left the government as prime minister that I've gone into permanent retirement really should have their heads examined," Lee once told a gathering of his People's Action Party.

"Even from my sickbed, even if you are going to lower me into the grave and I feel that something is going wrong, I'll get up."

The Cambridge-educated lawyer took charge in 1959. Modern Singapore began its

independent existence with no resources, no industry, bitter racial divisions and potentially unfriendly neighbours.

Lee helped forge an identity for his polyglot place, uniting an ethnic Chinese majority regarded with suspicion by its Muslim neighbours in Malaysia and Indonesia, with sizeable Malay and Indian minorities.

He demanded discipline to overcome hardships. Obedience, hard work, cleanliness, thrift and the profit motive all came into play as a shabby British colonial outpost was transformed. Now it is a flourishing banking and commercial centre with high-tech industries, first-class education and glitzy shopping centres.

Lee's government enjoys a reputation for honesty, efficiency and a strong sense of direction. Standards are high and there is a strict moral code. Tipping, jaywalking, littering, discourtesy and failing to flush public toilets after use are officially denounced. Those suspected of more serious transgressions such as subversion and drug abuse can expect no mercy — 28 drug traffickers have been hanged.

Mandela said De Klerk should be admired for having "the courage to say our previous position was wrong," but that it was the tireless ANC campaign and international economic sanctions which finally brought the government to peace talks.

"The credit for the discussions that are now going on in South Africa in the search of peace comes to the African National Congress and the African National Congress alone," the 71-year-old black leader said.

Mandela criticised countries which may be considering lifting sanctions, saying they were not thinking of South Africa as a whole, but only of the white minority.

"One of the most dangerous tendencies in the world is people who always think in terms of their flesh," Mandela said.

He said the reality in South Africa was that "apartheid was still in place."

"There are blacks who have no rights. There are whites who enjoy all the basic human rights," Mandela said.

White-led political repression continues and may be increasing in South Africa despite De Klerk's reforms, anti-apartheid activists said today.

They said that although a state of emergency had been lifted from three of the country's four provinces, other security legislation remained to stifle opposition activity.

"Repression under the state of emergency may have ended but there is growing evidence that other forms of repression not only continue but are on the increase," the Anti-Repression Forum (ARF) said in a statement.

Murphy Morobe, spokesman for the United Democratic Front (UDF), which is allied to Mandela's African National Congress, and independent human rights campaigner Max Coleman told a news conference that brutal police measures against mainly black political activities undermined De Klerk's promises of non-racial democracy after 40 years of apartheid.

The UDF questioned whether De Klerk fully controlled the white-led security forces.

France's secretary of state for humanitarian aid will travel to South Africa this week to meet government and opposition leaders, the first official visit by a French cabinet minister since 1975.

Bernard Kouchner, who has travelled widely in his post overseeing French relief programmes, also plans to visit Malawi during a six-day trip starting tomorrow, his office said.

South Africa's main white rightist opposition party said yesterday it refused to meet a United Nations team touring the country to evaluate efforts to dismantle apartheid.

The Conservative Party's foreign affairs spokesman, Tom Langley, told parliament the visit by the 10-member delegation from June 9 to 20 was blatant interference in South Africa's domestic affairs.

A board of inquiry into the 1987 crash of a South African Airways Boeing 747 at the cost of 159 lives found today the aircraft-type's anti-fire measures are inadequate, unacceptably risky and necessitate a design change if not altered.

The inquiry, under Supreme Court Judge Cecil Mago, advised the combi configuration of the 747-400 "be prohibited as creating an unacceptable risk to life and property" should the Seattle-based Boeing Co. decide against recommended fire-procedure changes.



Hundreds of South Korean radical students, with anti-US banners standing on the roof of a six-storey building, protested against the reopening of the American Cultural Centre in the southwest city of Kwangju on Monday. The centre had been closed for 13 months because of anti-US attacks between 1980 and May 1989. (Reuters wire photo)

S. Korean students firebomb US centre

SEOUL, June 12, (UPI): Disident students in the city of Kwangju firebombed a new US cultural centre today that had been opened with great fanfare the day before, an official at the US embassy said.

Embassy spokesman Jack Sears said the students hurled about 200 Molotov cocktails at the building in Kwangju, about 170 miles (270 km) south of Seoul. The new centre replaced an earlier facility that was closed in May 1989 because of repeated attacks.

The domestic Yonhap news agency said 400 students stormed the centre at about 5:30 am and threw some 400 firebombs. They were driven away in 15 minutes by Korean police who fired tear gas, Yonhap said.

The students ran out of the gate and back streets and dashed some 70 yards (60 m) toward the building shouting "close down the cultural centre" and "close the (ruling) Democratic Liberal Party," Yonhap said.

They staged demonstrations on the streets around the centre and vowed in leaflets to fight to have the facility closed down for good, Yonhap said.

"The US cultural centre is the propagator of anti-communist and cold war ideologies spying on forces of patriotic movements and suppressing popular aspirations for self-reliance and democratic reunification (of Korea)," the students said in the leaflets, according to the agency.

Foreign

Swiss need more workers

BERNE, June 12, (Reuters): Switzerland plans to loosen its strict regulations and allow more foreigners into the country to ease a chronic shortage of workers, the government said on Tuesday.

The new rules, set to take effect later this year, were aimed particularly at finding health care workers and technical specialists, it said.

The number of seasonal workers allowed into the country for nine months each year to work mainly in the construction and catering sectors, will rise by 7,000 to around 163,000.

Other short-term work permits will rise, but long-term permits will remain at around 11,000.

Chinese mosque seeks flock's prosperity

Company formed to help market goods to Islamic customers overseas

YINCHUAN, China, June 12, (Reuters): Bao Jingui saw members of his Chinese Muslim community off on their pilgrimage to Makkah, the dream of a lifetime, the other day.

As they left by train, the pilgrims said they could not have afforded the expensive month-long journey to Islam's holiest site even as recently as five years ago.

Bao's Hui Muslim minority group makes up one-third of the 4.5 million population of Ningxia region in China's remote north. Long an economically disadvantaged group, Huis like Bao are determined that the community will prosper.

His South Gate Mosque in April set what may be

a precedent by forming a company to help market goods to Islamic customers overseas.

"We think the mosque can help promote the factories. After all, many foreign dignitaries and businessmen come to our mosque every year," Bao said.

The mosque will act as a much-needed link with the outside world, he said. Yinchuan, the capital of Ningxia, was closed to foreigners until the early 1980s.

Still a backwater, regional authorities are eager to lure foreign trade and investment. Ningxia's chief industrial advantage is an abundant supply of coal, so unlike other parts of China, it rarely suffers power

shortages and resulting work slowdowns, trade officials here said.

Bao, a 61-year-old layman acting as the mosque's chairman, retired from construction work and devoted himself to the Muslim community after recovering from lung cancer in 1975.

A frail-looking man in woven Islamic cap and goatee, his great energy and warmth make him a charismatic figure.

His Yinchuan South Gate Mosque and Muslim Civil Economic Exploitation Company is the marketing arm of three factories, 80 per cent of whose 7,300 employees are Hui Muslims.

Much of the 10 million yuan (\$2.12 million)

invested in the factories was collected from the faithful. The rest came from bank loans, Bao said.

"Our mosque not only carries out religious activities, we also have to invest to get more money to help the Muslim community," Bao said.

The state-controlled factories, in Yinchuan and Wudong in Ningxia region and Xian in neighbouring Shaanxi province, remain separate entities but have joined forces to boost sales.

Their main products are pressure gauges and other instruments, many of them for use in oilfields. So far their biggest customer has been a Pakistani power station, which bought two million yuan (\$425,000) worth of equipment from them last year.

Gorby suggests Nato change

Dual membership for Germany proposed

MOSCOW, June 12. (Reuters): Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev suggested today that a change in Nato doctrine and strategy could ease the way for a united Germany to join the Western alliance.

Speaking to the Soviet parliament, Gorbachev also proposed that a new unitary German state be linked to both Nato and the East's Warsaw Pact until both were dissolved under a European security accord.

"We would welcome changes to the (Nato) alliance's military doctrine, which was engendered by the cold war," he declared. "Within such a framework, a new solution could be found for ensuring security for a united Germany."

In Washington, President George Bush today shrugged aside Gorbachev's suggestion that a united Germany become an "associate member of both the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (Nato) and Warsaw Pact alliances.

West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, speaking to reporters in Bonn earlier today, also turned a cold shoulder to latest proposal by Gorbachev.

"This is a proposal we do not consider realistic. We reject it," Kohl said.

Bush said Gorbachev's proposal, outlined in a speech to the Soviet parliament had been presented during the Soviet leader's five-day visit to Washington from May 31-June 3.

Gorbachev, reformulating an idea aired earlier this year by his Foreign Minister

Eduard Shevardnadze, said a fresh approach by Nato could make it possible for the new German state to play "an associate part" in both alliances.

This would involve both present German states in maintaining all their obligations under their present alliances, with Bonn's army subject to Nato and the East German Army subject to the new German government, he said.

He told the deputies this could be covered by "a formula of associated membership of the new German state in the two blocs, while they continue to exist. This double membership could be the outline of new European structures."

During a transition period while Nato and the Warsaw Pact transformed themselves, Gorbachev added, Soviet troops would remain on the territory of what is now East Germany.

The "association" proposal, diplomats said, was clearly a moderated version of the Kremlin's original suggestion that the new state belong to both alliances — an idea flatly rejected by the West and by the new East German government.

Gorbachev's remarks followed talks focused on the unity issue in the western Soviet city of Brest yesterday between Shevardnadze and West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher.

But Western diplomats in Moscow familiar with the outcome of the meeting said Gorbachev's comments, in a report on his summit with US President George Bush, did not reflect progress made in Brest.

In Brussels, Nato said today a Soviet suggestion that a united Germany could have a form of associate membership with both the Warsaw Pact and the 16-nation Western alliance did not seem "promising to pursue."

But its response was noticeably more cautious and less hardline than previous reactions to Soviet proposals for resolving the problem of Germany's military status.

The Polish press bitterly criticised the Soviet Union and West Germany today for meeting in the town of Brest, where Nazi German and Soviet troops paraded at the start of World War Two to celebrate their victory over Poland.

Shevardnadze and Genscher met in Brest, on the Soviet border with Poland yesterday to discuss obstacles in the path of German unification.

Oskar Lafontaine has decided against pulling out of the Social Democrats' chancellor candidate, officials said yesterday, as the opposition party struggles to mend a deep split and bolster its chances to win the leadership of a united Germany.

For weeks, the Social Democrats have been feuding over Lafontaine's insistence that the party take a hard line on West Germany's economic merger with East Germany.

The two city governments of Berlin, which tried hard to ignore each other for 40 years, held their first joint sitting today and pledged to make the reunited metropolis capital of a united Germany.

Meeting in East Berlin's imposing "Red City Hall," the red-brick home of Berlin government from 1860 until division at the end of World War Two, the two administrations said they wanted Berlin to be a "bridge to partnership" in Europe.

Honecker

Cash change

EAST BERLIN, June 12. (AP): Ousted East German leader Erich Honecker should be allowed to convert his cash to West German marks when the German states merge their economies next month, his lawyer was quoted today as saying.

The former hard-line Communist Party chief and his wife, Margot, have about 300,000 East German marks in personal savings, according to attorney Friedrich Wolff.

German unity heads agenda

WASHINGTON, June 12. (Reuters): US President George Bush and East German Prime Minister Lothar de Maiziere have agreed that a united Germany should enjoy full sovereignty and be free to choose its own alliance arrangements, the White House said yesterday.

They agreed also that Nato and US forces in Europe would continue to be important as guarantors of stability in Europe, a White House statement said.

"We feel considerable progress has been made," presidential spokesman Martin Fitzwater said when asked if the Soviet Union had softened its resistance to the Western demand that Germany be part of Nato.

"The Baker nine points seem to be having some impact... in terms of Soviet understanding that we want to take the kind of steps that would reassure them on the security issue," he added, referring to proposals endorsed by Nato foreign ministers on Thursday at a meeting in Scotland.

The nine points allow Soviet troops to remain in what is now East Germany for a transition period, commits the Western alliance to a second round of conventional arms talks that might limit the size of the German military and pledges to review Nato military strategy forged during the cold war.

Fitzwater said De Maiziere, the first East German leader to meet an American president, told Bush the nine points "were very helpful to the Warsaw Pact countries as they considered their future."

Later, in a speech at Georgetown University, De Maiziere said talks on the unification of Germany "must include concerns about security interests of neighbouring countries, primarily Poland, the Soviet Union and Czechoslovakia."



Bush with Maiziere at the White House on Monday. (Reuters wirephoto)

Birendra grants amnesty

KATHMANDU, June 12. (UPI): King Birendra, resolving one of Nepal's lingering questions in its movement toward democratic reform, today granted amnesty for and dropped charges against all people prosecuted for religious activity.

The government then ordered the release of 11 Christians and one Muslim.

"Among those to be released was Charles Mendias, a Nepalese pastor, serving a six-year sentence for preaching. Home Ministry spokesman Ram Chandra Paudyal said.

"Twenty people under trial will be released after government withdraws their cases in different courts in the kingdom," the spokesman said. "It will take several days."

The king "on the recommendation of the prime minister, has granted amnesty to all religious prisoners in view of the new political environment obtaining in the country," a royal palace announcement said.



Gorbachev addresses the parliament yesterday about his recent visit to Canada and the US and the results of the Warsaw Pact committee. (Reuters wirephoto)

Summit gained 'huge results'

Gorbachev lauds

MOSCOW, June 12. (AP): Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev told the nation today that the Washington summit achieved "huge results" in arms control and laid the groundwork for resolving the question of military allegiance of a united Germany.

The hour-long, nationally televised speech to the Supreme Soviet legislature gave Gorbachev the chance to highlight his area of greatest success, foreign policy, rather than domestic policies, facing increasing criticism from citizens.

Gorbachev, speaking calmly and smiling frequently, told the legislators that his warm reception in the United States and the signing of a US-Soviet trade agreement were evidence of US faith in his domestic reform programme.

After speaking, he answered questions from deputies for another hour. Later in the day he was expected to meet for the first time with the presidents of the three Baltic republics, who are demanding that Moscow recognize their declarations of independence.

"As a whole, I think huge results were achieved in Washington toward limiting nuclear and conventional weapons," Gorbachev said.

"All this has great meaning,"

he added. "Another practical step was taken to realize the idea of a non-violent, non-nuclear world."

There is difficult work ahead, but the danger of the cold war has begun to recede, he said.

Gorbachev and US President George Bush signed agreements to eliminate the two sides' chemical weapons and to reach a final accord this year to cut sharply their strategic nuclear weapons.

The Soviet leader told legislators that clear differences remain in the two sides' approach to the military alliance of a united Germany, and reiterated opposition to the idea of a single Germany belonging only to the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation.

"In this case, we would have to review from the beginning much of which is the basis of negotiations in Vienna, for the strategic situation on the continent would be changed," he said.

Gorbachev added that a meeting between US Secretary of State James Baker III and Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze in Copenhagen last week, and British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's visit to Moscow last Friday were helping to build toward a better understanding on both sides of the question of German unification.



Lithuanian President Vytautas Landsbergis (right) and Latvian President Arnold Rujell (left) leave the Lithuanian mission in Moscow for the Kremlin after agreeing to take part in a Council of the Federation meeting. (Reuters wirephoto)

Gorby softens stand on Baltics

MOSCOW, June 12. (Agencies): The Presidents of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia met Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev today, raising hopes for a compromise on the issue of Baltic independence.

Just hours before the meeting this afternoon, Gorbachev softened his stand on Lithuania's declaration of independence, saying even a temporary suspension of the March 11 proclamation would be sufficient for the Kremlin to agree to negotiations on secession.

Lithuania has refused to suspend the declaration of independence but has offered to suspend all laws implementing it. The slight softening of stands on both sides raised hopes that a compromise could be reached.

President Vytautas Landsbergis of Lithuania, Anatolij Gorbunovs of Latvia and Arnold Rujell of Estonia attended this afternoon meeting of Gorbachev's Federation Council that groups leaders of the 15 Soviet republics.

Also attending the meeting was Russian President Boris Yeltsin, fresh from a legislature session that declared sovereignty for the Soviet Union's largest republic. Yeltsin has said he would be willing to sign direct trade agreements with the Baltic republics.

After the Federation Council session the three Baltic presidents planned a separate meeting with Gorbachev to discuss their republics' drives for independence, officials said.

The Baltic presidents had refused to attend previous Federation Council meetings on the grounds that since their declarations of independence they were not part of the Soviet Union.

Algis Cekulolis, spokesman for the Lithuanian mission in Moscow, said the fact that Landsbergis was willing to attend today's meeting was a compromise on his part.

The three Baltic presidents met in the Lithuanian city of Panevezys yesterday to plot strategy for their meeting with Gorbachev and met again today just before the Federation Council session, but details of their discussions were not released.

Gorbachev told the Supreme Soviet this morning he was now willing to interpret "in a wide sense" the need for Lithuania to rescind its declaration of independence before talks.

"If there would be a suspension of those actions taken and a return to the situation on March 10, even only for the time discussions are going on... then we shall be able to start negotiations," Gorbachev said.

In addition to the meetings of the presidents, Lithuanian Prime Minister Kazimiera Prunskiene was also in Moscow to discuss the Kremlin's economic blockade of her republic with Soviet Prime Minister Nikolai Ryzhkov.

Cekulolis said Ryzhkov told Prunskiene by telephone last week that a May 31 Lithuanian government offer to suspend laws implementing the republic's independence declaration was "more or less an acceptable basis for talks."

Gorbachev cut off oil, most natural gas and other supplies to Lithuania in an effort to force the republic to back off its declaration of independence.

Prunskiene met with Gorbachev May 17 to offer a compromise under which the republic would suspend all acts implementing independence.

Foreign ministers from the Soviet Baltic republics rushed to Moscow today for talks between their presidents and Gorbachev, after failing to win observer status at a human rights meeting.



Relaxing soldier

A Soviet soldier relaxes on a transport carrier on Monday after the state of emergency had been lifted in the city of Osh, which calmed the tension between fighting ethnic factions of Kirghizes and Uzbeks. (Reuters wirephoto)

Situation stabilizing

Kirghiz unrest toll 139

MOSCOW, June 12. (AP): Deaths caused by ethnic unrest between Kirghiz and Uzbeks in Soviet Central Asia have climbed to 139 — 32 more than was reported Saturday night, Tass reported today.

The report by the official Soviet news agency mentioned only one new clash last night and did not explain how the 32 people were killed. Earlier Tass reports said the unrest was subsiding.

In yesterday's clash, several of the youths were detained after they pelted police in Kirghizia's capital of Frunze with rocks and bottles, Tass said.

The latest casualty statistics of 139 people killed and 486 wounded were issued by the Kirghiz Interior Ministry, Tass said. On Saturday night state-controlled newspapers and television reported

a total of 107 deaths.

Tass reported again today that "the situation is stabilising," with residents staging counterdemonstrations for discussions on how to resolve the crisis.

Soviet officials said the violence began June 2, with fighting between the two Sunni Muslim groups flaring on June 4 in the border city of Osh, a city of 210,000.

Uzbeks, who make up one-third of the population, discovered that Kirghiz were being given parcels of land for housing, which is critically short in the densely populated region.

Fighting spread to districts around Osh, and thousands of troops were sent in to reinforce local police.



Demonstrators dispersed

Club-wielding police dispersed about 500 demonstrators outside government headquarters in Bucharest on Monday, where talks were under way between officials and hunger strikers seeking independent TV stations.

There were no official reports or arrests as hundreds of steel-helmeted paramilitary police, armed with clubs and AK-47 rifles, broke up the anti-communist protesters, who were rallying in support of the hunger strikers.

The hunger strikers have been trying for weeks to open a dialogue with the government to press for a free media and a 10-year ban on former communists holding public office. The protesters, who have been blocked university

squares in downtown Bucharest since April 22, moved from there to the government headquarters in Victory Square.

Outside the headquarters, they shouted slogans such as "Down with communism" and "The only solution is another revolution" — an allusion to the December revolution that toppled communist dictator Nicolae Ceausescu.

After the police intervention, the number of protesters swelled to about 1,000, then dwindled again shortly after ward.

"They were clubbing the people who did not want to go from the square... so hard that some of them fell to the ground," said Marian Tanasescu, 34, an engineer. (Reuters wirephoto)

Calfa chosen

Asked to form Czech govt

PRAGUE, June 12. (AP): President Vaclav Havel today asked incumbent premier and ex-communist Marian Calfa to form Czechoslovakia's first democratically elected government in more than 40 years.

Havel designated Calfa after meeting with top leaders of Civic Forum and Public Against Violence, according to a brief statement carried by the state news agency CTK.

The two broad-based movements fought last winter's anti-communist revolution and won last week-end's elections.

CTK said that all present agreed that Calfa should be charged with forming the government.

The absence of the Christian Democrats from the talks indicated they might not be

included in the government, despite pre-election talk of a broad coalition.

Calfa, a Slovak, was Havel's choice for premier. However, sources inside Civic Forum and PAV made clear before the elections that they would not be happy with the choice of a former communist.

Calfa, 44, became premier during bargaining that led to the December formation of a "government of national understanding," which was dominated by Civic Forum.

The premier, a lawyer from Slovakia, resigned his Communist Party membership in January and since then is said by Havel aides to have impressed the President with his political skills and hard work.

Ceausescu's brother's trial resumes

BUCHAREST, June 12. (AP): The trial of Nicolae Andriuta Ceausescu resumed today in a military court in Bucharest with witnesses testifying that he did not shoot at protesters seeking the overthrow of his communist dictatorship brother.

Ceausescu, 66, a former general and commander of the Academy of Securitate, his brother's dreaded secret police, was put on trial late March on a charge of inciting genocide "in his efforts to suppress the popular revolt that ended Nicolae Ceausescu's 24-year tenure."

Witnesses at an earlier court session had testified that on Dec 21, they saw the defendant approach the crowd with his gun and fire.

Today, however, Stefan Antohie, an officer of the secret police academy who claimed to have seen Ceausescu several times on Dec 21 near the scene of the alleged shooting, told the panel of military judges that he had heard warning salvos, but "Ceausescu did not shoot... and I did not hear him ordering fire."

23 nations may have chemical weapons programmes: Cheney

WASHINGTON, June 12. (UPI): Defence Secretary Dick Cheney said yesterday that 23 foreign countries now have confirmed or suspected chemical warfare programmes and that Iraq is producing missiles capable of reaching Israel.

"Ten years from now, in the year 2000, the number of developing countries producing their own ballistic missiles is expected to be up to 15," Cheney said in a speech to the American-Israeli Public

Affairs Committee.

"Included among the 15 are such countries as Iran, Iraq, Syria and North Korea," Cheney said, noting that such missiles can carry a variety of warheads, including chemical, biological or nuclear.

"As for chemical and biological weapons, 23 foreign countries have confirmed or suspected chemical warfare programmes and 10 have, or may have, biological warfare programmes," Cheney

said. "Once again, that would include Iran, Iraq, Syria, Libya and North Korea."

Israel also has a missile programme and is suspected of having a chemical weapons programme.

Pentagon officials declined to list all 23 countries, saying the information from the defence intelligence agency was classified. However, 23 would appear to be an increase over previous public estimates.

In congressional testimony in February 1989, Central Intelligence Agency director William Webster said, "as many as 26 countries may be developing chemical weapons," and director of naval intelligence Thomas Brooks listed these 13 "Third World" nations as developing or having chemical warfare programmes: Iraq, Iran, China, North Korea, Taiwan, Burma, India, Pakistan, Syria, Israel, Egypt, Ethiopia and Libya.

MIDEAST/INTERNATIONAL

Radical Iranian Speaker re-elected

NICOSIA, June 12. (AP) The radical Speaker of the Iranian Parliament, Mehdi Karrubi, was re-elected yesterday for another one-year term.

His election was a major victory for hardline opponents of President Hashemi Rafsanjani and his rival pragmatic camp. Tehran Radio, monitored in Nicosia, said 229 members of the 270-seat house attended the meeting, and that 155 of them voted for Karrubi.

It said the other 74 votes went to Ali Akbar Nateq Nouri, a former interior

minister, who is also a hardliner.

The fact that both candidates for the position were staunch hardliners underlines the extent of the radicals' power in the Majlis, or Parliament.

After his election last August, Rafsanjani dumped all of the radicals from his cabinet and replaced them with technocrats, many of them Western-educated.

Following that purge, the radicals' power has been concentrated in the Majlis and a number of large revolutionary organisations.

Ali Akbar Mohtashemi, a former interior minister who won the Tehran seat in Parliament earlier this year, is known to co-ordinate much of the attack against Rafsanjani's pragmatic government.

The radicals oppose efforts by Rafsanjani to liberalise Iranian society and mend relations with the West to attract investment and advanced technology for the country's limping economy.

The Majlis has been a major obstacle to Rafsanjani's policies. The president has

said he would like to cool the fervor of the 1979 Islamic Revolution and channel efforts towards reconstruction of Iran's post-war economy.

The radicals fear any cooling of the revolution. They believe Iran should concentrate on exporting its radical revolution and not worry about its failing economy.

A draft bill proposing the merger of Iran's various security forces was discussed in the Parliament today, Tehran Radio reported.

Sofia students strike

Socialists likely to gain majority in polls

SOFIA, June 12. (AP) University students formed a human chain around Sofia University today and declared a strike over alleged government manipulation of what were billed as Bulgaria's first free elections in 58 years.

The Socialist Party, formerly communists, have governed Bulgaria since 1944 and appeared to be headed for a decisive victory in Sunday's elections.

Official results today showed they won more than twice as many constituency seats as the opposition.

Provisional results from all but five of 200 single candidate constituencies in Sunday's vote gave 68 seats to the former communists, now renamed the Bulgarian Socialist Party (BSP).

The opposition Union of Democratic Forces (UDF), an alliance of 16 opposition groups, won only 32 seats, the Central Electoral Commission said.

But in Sofia, the capital, the UDF gained 18 out of the 26 seats and the BSP did not win any. It will contest the remaining seats in a run-off election next Sunday.



Union Democratic Forces (UDF) supporters flashing the victory signs as they listen the results of Bulgarian elections outside Sofia University. (Reuters wirephoto)

'Response by PLO on raid inadequate'

WASHINGTON, June 12. (Agencies) Secretary of State James A. Baker III said today the actions of the PLO in the wake of an aborted terrorist attack on an Israeli beach have been inadequate.

But he told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee the United States has not made any decision on whether to cut off dialogue with the PLO because of the matter.

"We want to weigh matters carefully and do so without the pressure of artificial deadlines," said Baker, noting that the PLO has been in talks with the PLO would have far-reaching ramifications on future Middle East peace efforts.

Abu Abbas, a member of the PLO executive committee, claimed responsibility for the attempted seaborne attack.

While the PLO has disassociated itself from the attack, the group's top leaders have given no indication that they intend to take steps to discipline Abu Abbas, and they have not condemned the attack directly, Baker said.

The United States has urged the PLO to take such steps, he said.

So far the PLO's "public and private responses have fallen short of the mark," Baker said.

He said US allies, such as Britain, have interceded with the PLO, asking the Arab group to follow the United States' advice.

Over two dozen members of the Senate have urged the Bush administration to suspend the dialogue with the PLO as a result of the attempted attack.

One US official told Reuters he thought it likely Baker would find a compromise, like suspending the dialogue, rather than break off talks with the PLO completely.

In Washington, State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler told reporters: "We're pleased to see that they are demonstrating military action against civilians but we are disappointed that they have not explicitly condemned the Tel Aviv raid and refrained from any public comment on Abu Abbas."

She reiterated President George Bush's recent call for PLO leader Yasser Arafat to "speak out and denounce it (the raid)" but refused to say specifically how the United States would like the PLO to handle Abbas.

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Algerian President Chadli Benjedid cast his vote at polling station in Algiers. (Reuters wirephoto)

Algerians go to free polls

Ben Bella criticises FLN

ALGIERS, June 12. (AP) Police deployed throughout the country today during Algeria's first multiparty elections since independence, pitting Islamic fundamentalists against the governing National Liberation Front.

There were no reports of violence by midday in the voting for 15,000 seats in the north African country's 1,541 municipal councils and 49 provincial councils. Authorities said the heavy police presence was to protect voters.

The election marks the first free, multiparty contest since the Front, or FLN, turned Algeria into a one-party socialist state after winning a bloody war of independence against France in 1962.

Observers expected the FLN to finish ahead of a strong challenge posed by the Islamic fundamentalists. FLN again held the government offices that will produce an official vote count tomorrow.

The party also controls most of the media and has far greater financial resources than its rivals.

The Islamic Salvation Front of philosophy professor Abassi Madani was the sole opposition party not to call for a boycott of the elections.

"We hope to win a majority of council seats," the frail-looking Madani said after emerging from a voting booth in the Hydra suburb of the capital.

Berber leader Hocine Ait-Ahmed, one of the heroes of Algeria's war for independence, called the polling "rigged."

His centrist Front of Socialist Forces and the left-leaning, populist Movement for Democracy headed by exiled former president Ahmed Ben Bella told their followers to stay at home.

The bitter rivals were expected to claim the support of any of the 13 million eligible voters who stay home. Few voters had appeared at many polling stations by midday.

But there was no indication a widespread boycott would be reflected in official results, which will be disseminated by the Ministry of Interior, run by the FLN.

About 2,600 independents or candidates from smaller parties are still contesting the election.

Huge rallies of tens of thousands of people supporting the major parties marked the long election campaign that ended last week with Madani saying his party expected to win 5 per cent of the vote.

Authorities fear his supporters might take to the streets in violent protests if Islamic candidates fail to attain that unlikely figure.

President Chadli Benjedid was forced to give up the FLN's monopoly on power after soldiers killed scores of rioters in October 1988 in protests over deteriorating economic conditions stemming from a fall in world oil prices.

Interior Minister Abdelhamid Echeikh said at a news conference. He criticised the boycott organisers for a negative attitude and said the government had proved its commitment to moving toward multiparty democracy.

Independent candidates ignoring the boycott were listed on ballots in only 19 of 246 municipal councils.

According to results issued by the Interior Ministry, independents won 34 seats, including 12 in Monastir, birthplace of deposed former president Habib Bourguiba. The former leader, ousted after three decades in power, was the first person in Monastir to vote on Sunday.

Two Tunis newspapers reported yesterday that independent candidates had accused supporters of the ruling party of various electoral abuses in some regions.

The election boycott was endorsed by officially recognised left- and right-wing secular parties and by an officially unrecognised Islamic fundamentalist group, An-Nahda.

Uprising swindlers held in Amman

AMMAN, June 12. (AP) Police said today they have arrested six men who sometimes posed as policemen to swindle hundreds of dollars meant for Palestinians in the Israeli-occupied territories.

A senior police official told the Associated Press that the group had illicitly raised "hundreds of Jordanian dinars (hundreds of dollars)" since late April.

A court official said one suspect, 28-year-old Mazin Youssef Farhan of Amman, confessed at a preliminary hearing this week that he had embezzled hundreds of thousands of dollars from Gulf donors in four separate operations in 1982, also claiming that he was raising funds for Palestinians.

He put the figure at 200,000 dinars, worth almost \$470,000 at the 1982 exchange rate.

Neither the police nor the court official would be named due to standing regulations.

The police official said the gang was arrested last Friday after one of the swindlers "claimed he was raising funds for Palestinians and collected 66 dinars (\$97) from worshippers" near one of Amman's largest mosques.

"To his fortune, a senior Palestinian fund-raising figure happened to be praying in that mosque and since he did not recognize the man as member of his fund-raising group, he immediately notified police," the policeman said in mixed English and Arabic.

He said authorities caught the suspect with the money and forged documents. Police did not disclose his name.

After interrogation, the man admitted "to his crimes and identified his partners," including Farhan, who were arrested immediately.

Police said group members admitted they have often posed in the streets of the Jordanian capital as policemen or reporters to collect money for the uprising.

He said all six were charged with "embezzlement, forgery and impersonation of police figures."

Jordan's King Hussein denounced the new hardline government in neighbouring Israel as a "deviant in the Middle East."

The new government forms a real threat to the stability of the region because of its rightist programme, since it refuses to talk to the PLO or withdraw from occupied Arab lands," the state-run news agency Petra quoted the king as saying.

Amnesty International said in a report released today that Jordan's human rights record has improved, but urged the newly-elected government to expand safeguards and to end detention without trial.

The London-based human rights organisation also urged the new government to state categorically that it will not tolerate torture or ill-treatment of detainees by officials. It said judges should review cases of political prisoners sentenced by martial law courts.

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Police negligence injures baby: Police failed to act on a warning about a bomb that exploded beneath a car and injured a 13-month-old boy in Bristol, a police chief said on Monday.

Deputy chief constable John Harland of Avon and Somerset police said a constable did not follow basic procedures after a security guard reported seeing a package under the car of Max Headley, an animal researcher at Bristol University.

Headley was not injured when the device exploded Sunday morning, but debris tore through the back of a stroller and injured young John Copper, police said. Doctors said the shrapnel narrowly missed the boy's spine. (AP)

Police questions suspect: Police said on Monday they were questioning a man held on suspicion of having thrown a smoke grenade into a refugee building in northern Sweden.

Two refugees from Lebanon received minor injuries in the incident Saturday night outside Harmond, 420 kms (260 miles) north of Stockholm.

Police said a 30-year-old was suspected of arson or assault. They declined to identify him in accordance with Swedish press regulations. (AP)

Ceausescu's Cadillac for sale: A six-tonne armoured Cadillac that once belonged to the late Romanian president Nicolae Ceausescu is up for sale in Spain, the magazine Epoca said on Monday.

It said collector Gonzalo Tornos had offers of up to \$150,000 for the vintage 1947 black car.

Epoca said Ceausescu gave the car to former Spanish communist leader Santiago Carrillo when he returned to Spain after the death of General Francisco Franco in 1975.

Carrillo used it to campaign for Spain's first post-Franco election in 1977, but dumped it after the brakes overheated when coming down a steep mountain pass.

The Cadillac remained in the underground car park at the Communist Party headquarters until it was sold for scrap last year. Tornos restored it. (Reuters)

UN unit to stop killer fly: The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) announced on Monday that it has formed a special unit for quick intervention to prevent the spread of the killer fly which is threatening North Africa.

The special unit which consists of FAO experts will be working on a two-year programme with a \$90 million budget equal to the locust-fighting campaign which was taken up in 1986 in order to rid the region from the killer fly which attacks people as well as animals. (Kuna)

New drug to fight cancer: A drug to replace morphine in the treatment of patients with acute prostate cancer is being developed in Britain, it was reported yesterday.

The drug metastrom, which can offer pain relief with one injection for up to six months, is being evaluated in clinical trials in Britain and Canada, but is not expected to become routinely available for some time.

The drug is based on strontium 90, the radioactive element, and has been developed by a Buckinghamshire-based pharmaceutical company in southern England.

The British media said that metastrom may also have a role in treating breast cancer. (Kuna)

Former head of Hammer films dies: Sir James Carreras, who as head of Hammer Films produced horror movies that scared the daylights out of a whole generation of filmgoers, has died, according to a family death notice published yesterday. He was 81.

Carreras died peacefully on Saturday of a stroke at his home at Henley-on-Thames, west of London, the notice said.

Carreras built up the Hammer company after World War II, and in the mid 1950s began making the gruesome, low-budget horror films for which the British studio became internationally famous.

He made inexpensive films that were the objects of critical scorn, but developed a strong cult following. (AP)



A young UDF supporter waves an American flag atop the statue of a Soviet general. (Reuters wirephoto)

Split group tells Arafat to resign

DAMASCUS, June 12. (Reuters) A Palestinian group, long opposed to PLO leader Yasser Arafat, urged him to resign today, saying his peace moves had failed.

Abdel Hadi Nashash, spokesman for the Damascus-based Fatah Uprising group, also denounced the Palestine Liberation Organisation for issuing a statement yesterday condemning attacks on civilians.

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The plane had been en route to Malaga, Spain.

Ogden, who was serving tea in the forward galley, dashed into the cockpit and grabbed Lancaster's legs before he disappeared.

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'No tidings of peace, no ability to change, no reason for hope' – Shimon Peres

US ready to work with Shamir's govt

Resettlement tops priorities

WASHINGTON, June 12, (Reuters): In an apparent softening of the harsh rhetoric that has accompanied strained US-Israeli ties, the United States says it is prepared to work with the new rightist government in Israel.

Relations between the two countries are at their lowest point since the 1982 Israeli invasion of Lebanon but comments from senior US officials yesterday suggested Washington would like to get off to a good start with a government that has been described as the most hardline in Israeli history.

It is headed by Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, whose relationship with US President George Bush and Secretary of State James Baker has been acrimonious over Shamir's refusal to accept US proposals for peace talks with Palestinians.



Housing Minister Ariel Sharon speaks to Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir during a cabinet meeting. (Reuters wirephoto)

The US officials insisted they would continue to push for peace talks between Israel and the Palestinians while stressing the strategic importance of Israel for the United States.

"Suffice it to say that the US commitment to Israel remains absolutely solid and unalterable," Secretary of Defence Dick Cheney said to a Washington gathering of a powerful pro-Israeli lobby, the American Israeli Public Affairs Committee.

Vice-President Dan Quayle said: "Let me assure you that President Bush fully appreciates the strategic importance of our close ties with Israel."

In Jerusalem, Yitzhak Shamir begins his fourth term as Israel's prime minister, promising his countrymen to put resettlement of Soviet immigrants on top of the national priorities' list and launch a peace dialogue with the Arabs.

"Absorbing the mass immigration, this is the mission that will be the focus of government activity," Shamir told reporters shortly after winning parliamentary approval for his new right-wing cabinet.

Shamir gained 62 votes in the 120-seat Knesset yesterday after he formally presented a 19-member government, one of the most right-wing formations in Israel's history.

The vote installed Israel's 24th government since the state's founding in 1948 and gave the 74-year-old Shamir the prime minister's job for the fourth time.

Shamir's right-wing Likud bloc had had to accept power-sharing with the centre-left Labour Party of Shimon Peres since 1984.

The last such alliance collapsed March 15 over Labour's demands that Israel accept a US proposal for opening peace talks with Palestinians.

"I think we will reach a dialogue with several Arab elements," Shamir promised minutes after taking the formal oath of allegiance.

Shamir wants to implement the Israeli peace initiative of May 1989, which envisages Palestinian elections and limited autonomy for the 1.7 million residents of the occupied territories, as well as peace talks with the Arab countries.

Although Shamir's parliament speech included repeated pledges to seek peace, he also promised to expand Jewish settlements in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, indicating a likely collision course with Washington and the Arabs.

The vote came after a heated six-hour debate. Liberal lawmakers charged that Likud used bribery to forge the coalition of nine small far-right and religious parties, and Labour said the new government cannot bring peace.

Shamir replied that the criticisms were "pitiful" and appealed to the Arab countries, saying:

"We yet again call on the Arab countries to ... move towards peace and peaceful coexistence with us ... our call for direct talks is not an empty declaration but a real and sincere appeal to our neighbours to turn their backs to hostility and war and proceed to the negotiating table."

The angry political bickering that accompanied the new cabinet's birth raised questions about whether the coalition of diverse factions could survive until the next scheduled elections in 1992.



Shamir (centre) and Foreign Minister David Levy (right) are congratulated June 11 by members of a religious party after winning a motion of confidence. (Reuters wirephoto)

Shamir facing credibility problems

Convince Arabs he is not a 'monster seeking war'

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, June 12, (AP): Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir has pledged to make peace a top priority of his new right-wing government, but he recognises a major task in convincing Arabs he is not a "monster seeking war."

In an apparent effort to allay Washington's fears, Shamir and leading political allies have softened rhetoric about settlement-building that US policy considers to be an obstacle to peace.

Likud officials suggest the new government will move quickly to improve relations with the United States, acknowledging that Israel's new government has an image problem.

Yossi Olmert, director of the govern-

ment press office, said, "we are concerned. We are aware of it, and we shall strive to explain what the government is all about."

"There is more flexibility in this government than meets the eye," he added.

David Levy, the new foreign minister, was housing minister in the last government and approved granting \$1.8 million in state funds to start a new settlement in the Christian quarter of occupied Jerusalem's Old City.

But he told reporters his first task as foreign minister would be "to prevent deterioration and to improve" Israel's strained ties with the United States.

Harry Wall, Israel director of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, said

the government would act to reassure concerned US Jews that it was not extremist.

"It will have to try harder to disabuse the critics who think that this regime will not push the peace process... the important thing will be to watch what it does and not what it says."

Palestinians, however, plainly do not believe a right-wing government will make any sincere move towards starting negotiations.

They see Shamir as a politician who opposed the peace treaty with Egypt, Levy as the man whose reign as housing minister resulted in creation of most of the 130 existing settlements in the occupied territories and Ariel Sharon, the new

immigration head, as the man who launched a war against Palestinians in Lebanon.

In a leaflet, the underground leadership of the 30-month Palestinian uprising noted that Shamir's government relied for support on the two-seat Moledet, or Homeland, party which advocates the expulsion of all Arabs.

It called for an escalation of anti-Israeli protests to "burn the ground under the feet of the occupation's army and settlers."

Faisal Hussein, a leading Palestinian activist in occupied Jerusalem, said, "I think it is a government of war, and I think the decisions of such a government will be a decision of war."

Immigration czar

Force rather than finesse

Sharon's style

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, June 12, (AP): Ariel Sharon, Israel's most charismatic hawk, believes the Jewish state must rely on military might rather than the part of diplomacy to ensure its survival.

The bulky former defence minister and engineer of the 1982 invasion of Lebanon will become Israel's "immigration czar," co-ordinating the absorption of thousands of Soviet immigrants expected to arrive in the Jewish state in the 1990s.

Critics fear that in this role, Sharon could raise tensions between Israel and the United States by channelling Soviet immigrants into the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Sharon, whose new job is housing minister with special authority over immigration, has remained mum about his plans. "I will only repeat that Israel is a democratic state and citizens can live where they want," he said Sunday.

The 62-year-old Sharon, who has often followed his own path in politics, recently angered Washington with his active support of a Jewish settlement in occupied Jerusalem's Christian quarter.

Sharon would stroll over daily from his nearby apartment in the Muslim quarter to assert Israel's claim of sovereignty over the disputed city.

His demonstrative move into the Muslim quarter in December 1987 – criticised by Israeli moderates as an unnecessary provocation – is characteristic of Sharon's style of force rather than finesse.

The Israeli-born Sharon would like, eventually, to challenge Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir for the leadership of the Likud bloc and the country.

The two traded bitter insults a few months ago when Sharon led a campaign to torpedo Shamir's proposal for peace talks with the Palestinians. The hard-line "conditions" that Shamir wanted to append to Shamir's peace plan have all been adopted as part of the new government's guidelines.

But Sharon's attempts to become prime minister have been thwarted by his responsibility for Israel's much-criticised war in Lebanon, which led to three years of occupation.

Sharon was forced to resign as defence minister in 1983 when an Israeli inquiry commission found him indirectly responsible for the slayings of hundreds of Palestinians by Israeli-backed forces in the Sabra and Chatila refugee camps in Beirut.

Sharon, when prescribing "cures" for the 30-month Palestinian uprising in the occupied lands, likes to boast how he crushed Arab unrest when he served as top army commander in the Gaza Strip in 1971.

The terrorists were eliminated. All their supporters were put in prison," Sharon said.

Critics have charged, however, that Sharon's ruthless 1971 campaign was against guerrilla cells and that the current uprising is a popular revolt consisting mainly of stoning attacks.

Last year, Sharon also suggested a way to cut outside support for the uprising.

Cabinet

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, June 12, (AP): Following is the new Israeli cabinet that Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir submitted yesterday to the Knesset, or Parliament. Party affiliations are in parentheses.

Prime Minister, Yitzhak Shamir (Likud); Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, David Levy (Likud); Deputy Prime Minister and Industry and Trade Minister, Moshe Nissim (Likud); Defence, Moshe Arens (Likud); Finance, Yitzhak Mordechai (Likud-Liberal faction); Housing, Ariel Sharon (Likud); Justice, Dan Meridor (Likud); Interior, Arye Deri (Shas); Police, Ronnie Milo (Likud); Economy and Planning, David Magen (Likud); Communications, Rafael Pinhasi (Shas); Transportation, Moshe Katav (Likud); Tourism, Gideon Patt (Likud); Health, Ehud Olmert (Likud); Education, Ze'evulun Hammer (National Religious Party); Science and Energy, Yuval Neeman (Tehiya); Agriculture, Rafael Eitan (Tzomet); Immigrant Absorption, Yitzhak Peretz (Independent-breakaway from Shas).

Shamir retained the labour and social welfare portfolio and the environment portfolio for himself.

Following are some deputy ministers expected to serve in the new government.

Prime Ministry, Yigal Bibi (NRP); Science and Energy, Gershon Cohen (Tehiya); Communications, Ephraim Gur (Labour-defector); Defence, Benjamin Netanyahu (Likud); Religious Affairs, Moshe Gafni (Degel HaTorah); Health, Eliazar Mizrahi (Breakaway from Agudat Israel).

WASHINGTON, June 12, (Reuters): A new PLO statement condemning attacks on civilians is unlikely to salvage a dialogue with the United States that has been central to recent Middle East peace strategy, analysts said yesterday.

They said the outlook for the region is renewed tension due to the formation of a right-wing Israeli government and the refusal of the PLO to condemn outright a foiled seaborne raid on Israeli beaches by Palestinian commandos.

"I don't see any near-term prospect for getting peace talks started," said William Quandt of the Brookings Institution.

However, he and other experts said President George Bush may opt for a compromise and decide to suspend the PLO dialogue, rather than break it off completely.

The Palestine Liberation Organisation yesterday condemned all attacks on civilians but did not specifically denounce the May 30 sea raid by one of its factions, the Palestine Liberation Front (PLF).

"We remain against any military action which targets civilians regardless of the nature of such action and we condemn it," the PLO said in a statement.

The United States, which had urged the PLO to

condemn the attack specifically, expressed disappointment with the statement. But State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler declined to say whether the Bush administration had decided to end its controversial dialogue with the Palestinian group.

The May 30 raid, which was foiled by Israel, has become a watershed for the controversial dialogue the United States resumed with the PLO in December 1988 after a 13-year break.

For the first time since the dialogue began, the United States has concluded an attack on Israel was carried out by a PLO faction and fits its definition of

terrorism.

Despite strong Israeli protests, Washington agreed to resume the dialogue after the PLO met US demands to denounce terrorism and recognise the Jewish state's right to exist.

But then-secretary of state George Shultz made clear the contacts would end if the PLO ever reverted to supporting terrorism.

Secretary of State James Baker reaffirmed this view last Friday as he made what appeared to be a last-ditch appeal to the PLO to take a stronger stand against the attack.

Tear-gas fired on clinic

66 Gaza infants treated for inhaling fumes

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, June 12, (AP): Soldiers chasing Arab stone-throwers fired tear-gas into a UN children's and maternity clinic in the occupied Gaza Strip today, and 66 infants and children were treated for inhaling the fumes, the army said.

In Jerusalem's walled Old City, a 17-year-old Israeli seminary student going to prayers at the Western Wall was stabbed twice in the stomach. He was in moderate condition. Police immediately rounded up 100 Palestinians for questioning.

An army official said the tear-gas was lobbed into the UN clinic after

an army patrol in Gaza city's Nasser Street came under a barrage of stones and blocks thrown from the clinic.

The official noted that soldiers are barred from firing tear-gas into enclosed spaces, and that the troops involved in today's incident would be punished.

Officials of the UN Relief and Works Agency (Unrwa), which runs the clinic, said the incident began when about half a dozen Israelis in civilian clothes ran into the building, apparently in pursuit of young Arab boys who had stoned their car.



A group of Palestinian youths are led away by an Israeli policeman after a religious Jewish student was stabbed in Jerusalem's Old City. Police rounded up dozens of Palestinians for questioning following the attack. (Reuters wirephoto)

ians accused of throwing firebombs or killing suspected Arab collaborators and sealed two other homes of Palestinian suspects.

One of the suspects, 25-year-old Abdel Hakim Shana, was convicted of murdering alleged collaborators and sentenced to life imprisonment. Soldiers tore down the four room house owned by his father, which was home to a family of 12.

The Supreme Court rejected

appeals from some families of the suspects. US policy opposes the demolition of houses as an unfair collective punishment.

The latest house demolitions came a day after Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir won a

parliament vote of confidence for his new right-wing government that has promised strong steps to put down the 30-month

Palestinian uprising against

Israeli occupation.

The Israeli Information Centre for Human Rights in the Occupied Territories said there has been a marked decline in recent months in destruction of houses by the army.

It said that through the end of May a total of 293 houses were destroyed and 173 sealed for security reasons. Several hundred others have been destroyed for being built without a permit.

Israel to open first office in Beijing

BEIJING, June 12, (AP): Israel's first representative office in China is to open this week, but its director said today that his job is promoting academic co-operation, not being a diplomat.

The foreign ministers of the two countries agreed in May 1989 to establish the academic exchange office, one of several steps the two sides have taken in recent years toward establishing diplomatic relations for the first time.

The liaison office for the Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities is to hold its opening ceremony Friday. It has no government status, but is the latest and most concrete move toward formal relations.

"Israel obviously sees it as a step for a more serious relationship... But our business is specifically science. That's what we do, that's what we know how to do," director Joseph Shalhevet said in an interview.

Israel was one of the first countries to recognise the communist Chinese government after it came to power in 1949, but establishment of diplomatic relations was interrupted by the Korean war, during which Israel sided with the United States, a major defender of South Korea. China fought on communist North Korea's side.

"Israel has been interested in establishing normal relations with all countries in the world. China is just about the only non-Muslim country that has refrained from establishing contact," Shalhevet said.

China has maintained strong ties with Arab countries, and recognises the Palestine Liberation Organisation, which has an embassy in Beijing.

Chinese President Yang Shangkun, visiting Egypt last December, reiterated that Beijing would not consider establishing diplomatic relations until Israel returns land seized from Arab countries during the 1967 Middle East war.

However, as part of the recent warming of relations, China has opened a branch of the China International Travel Service in Tel Aviv – the first Chinese presence in Israel.

Lack of diplomatic relations has not stopped Israelis from coming to China, most of them on non-Israeli passports.

The two countries have had several informal academic and cultural exchanges and quiet but growing business dealings that reportedly include arms sales.

Two years ago, Israel established a government-run corporation, Copeco, in Hong Kong to promote trade with China.

PLO statement seen insufficient to save talks

Tension rises in Middle East as Shamir forms right-wing government

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Pager system becomes new business tool

Necessity for some

THE PAGER device calling system has become an essential communication tool for businessmen in this age of rapid communications, a local daily who interviewed a number of owners of this small but yet important device reported.

Sulaiman Al Nawwara, a businessman said that he uses the device as he does not have a telephone at his home. He said that the pager almost carries out 80 per cent of his business calls. However, he said that

due to the high demand on this service, the pager network in Kuwait is often busy. Regarding the company's intention to discontinue this service, he said that this will be an administrative error and is a good indicator that the department lacks good planning strategies to begin with. He commented that the pager service currently exists in a highly developed form in many Gulf countries. He added that continuing such services is good evidence of

the success of the private sector's involvement in the country.

Huda Moussa stated that the pager is a necessity to her as she works as a sales representative and said that she never leaves home without it as she is continually on the move. She disapproved of the company's intentions to terminate the service. She said that the company should exert every effort to enhance this service by resolving the problem of lines being con-

tinually engaged.

Akram Esbita a radiologist, stated that due to the nature of his work, he considers this device to be a necessity — particularly during emergency cases at the hospital. He said that this service in the doctors' profession cannot be overestimated and should not be discontinued.

Bader Al Otaibi said that the pager prices are continually on the rise and that a good pager costs around KD230.

Effects of Manakh receding: Sharkas

Privatisation plan supported

By Humoud Ghalibis

A SENIOR economist was quoted as saying that the Kuwaiti economy had recovered to a great extent from the Manakh Crisis.

Speaking to the daily Al-Sayyasah, Dr. Wajid Sharkas, professor at Kuwait University, expressed support to the proposed merger of some financial institutions, including banks and financial companies. He said that his acceptance of the proposed merger took into consideration several aspects including the ongoing international trend for merging banks and investment companies as well as industrial companies and Kuwaiti banks remarkable role in the international markets.

Privatisation

In this context, the official expected that after the formation of the European Economic Community, expected to be realised in 1992, Arab banks currently working in Europe will face severe competition. He added that he envisages the strength of these banks to be reduced to two or three, with other banks either going into liquidation or merging.

Speaking of the privatisation plan that the government intends to adopt, Sharkas said that he strongly supports such a policy. He commented that the government could not effectively play the role of manufacturer, distributor, importer and exporter. He advocated delegating these roles to the private sector. He recommended that the government should undertake only the setting up of organisational procedures which will ensure fair distribution.

Expertise

He went on to state that the dramatic changes currently being witnessed in the socialist countries provide sufficient evidence to prove the failure of their governments to effectively undertake such roles. He said that government efforts should be focused on infrastructural projects, including health, defence and education, rather than get involved in projects and services which fall within the scope of the private sector.

The economist commented that all countries who have achieved significant advances in industry and technology have had their economies based on a liberal system.

Speaking of foreign investments, Sharkas said that unfortunately, Arab decision makers mainly depended on forming their policies on foreign expertise — though more often than not, such expertise is biased in favour of foreign markets.

He said that Arab investors in Western countries, either government or individual investors should keep in mind the safety aspects of their investments. He cited the case of confiscation of Iranian and Libyan assets placed in the USA due to political disputes with the American government. Sharkas called on the government and Arab investors to place their funds in Arab countries to avoid such risks.

He cited the loss suffered by Arab investors in the New York based Wall-Street crash of "Black Monday." He said that this would not be the last crash in view of the increasing speculative activities in the market, the formation of new international economic blocs in addition to the new political formula which is represented by the USA as being the sole super power in the world and the setting up of the Soviet Union as well as fluctuations in the foreign exchange rates.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Amiri cable

KUWAIT, June 12, (Kuna): His Highness the Amir sent a cable of congratulations to Philippines President on the occasion of the country's National Day.

Premier's message

KUWAIT, June 12, (Kuna): His Highness the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah today received a message from British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher.

The message was delivered by UK Ambassador to Kuwait Michael Weston at an audience at HH's office in Bayan Palace at 10.30 am.

Elections hailed

KUWAIT, June 12, (Kuna): The Kuwaiti press today highlighted the results of the National Council elections and underlined the importance of the next stage of the democratic process.

In an editorial, a daily hailed the Kuwaiti people who responded to the elections call and underlined the level of consciousness of the Kuwaiti voters for picking their representatives to the National Council.

The paper expressed belief that the next stage constitutes great importance in the democratic process and said the choice of change by the Kuwaiti people will provide them security and safety.

Kuwait govt resigns

(Continued from Page 1)

their homeland and their awareness and clear perception of actualities of life.

In a statement marking conclusion of elections, Sheikh Saad noted that such active participation by citizens, which was undeterred by either old-age or the scorching summer heat, reflected loyalty to this good earth and people's confidence in and rallying around their leadership.

"The youth who flocked to the polling centres," he said, "is not only assertive of continuation of the blessed march generation after generation and a harbinger of hope and confidence in a bright future but is also indicative of the distinguished role youth will play in undertaking the responsibility of serving this dear homeland."

Wishing the successful candidates every success in serving the electorate and the country, His Highness thanked all those who have facilitated the process and hoped for continued unity and fraternity of all people of Kuwait.

Barges Hmoud Al Barges told the Associated Press in Vienna, where he is attending a conference of news-agency executives, that he quit because of new government retirement law.

Under that law, some officials who have spent 16 years or more in government jobs are not entitled to stay in them any more, Barges said. The Information Ministry said today Barges tendered his resignation because of the "legal retirement age."

Knowledgeable sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said he quit to protest accusations he manipulated the state-run agency to favour pro-democracy activists.

But Barges said such reports were "just rumours." He said he planned to look for another job but not in the immediate future because "I need some rest."

The information minister issued a statement commending Barges, 60, for his "efforts in the service of Kuwait's press" and said the services came to an end in line with the retirement law.

Barges was known for his fervent support of the Palestinian cause and his advocacy of Arab nationalism. His fiery oratory propelled him to the chairmanship of the Federation of Arab News Agencies in addition to his leadership of Kuna since it was set up in 1979.

Before Kuna, Barges served as undersecretary for health.



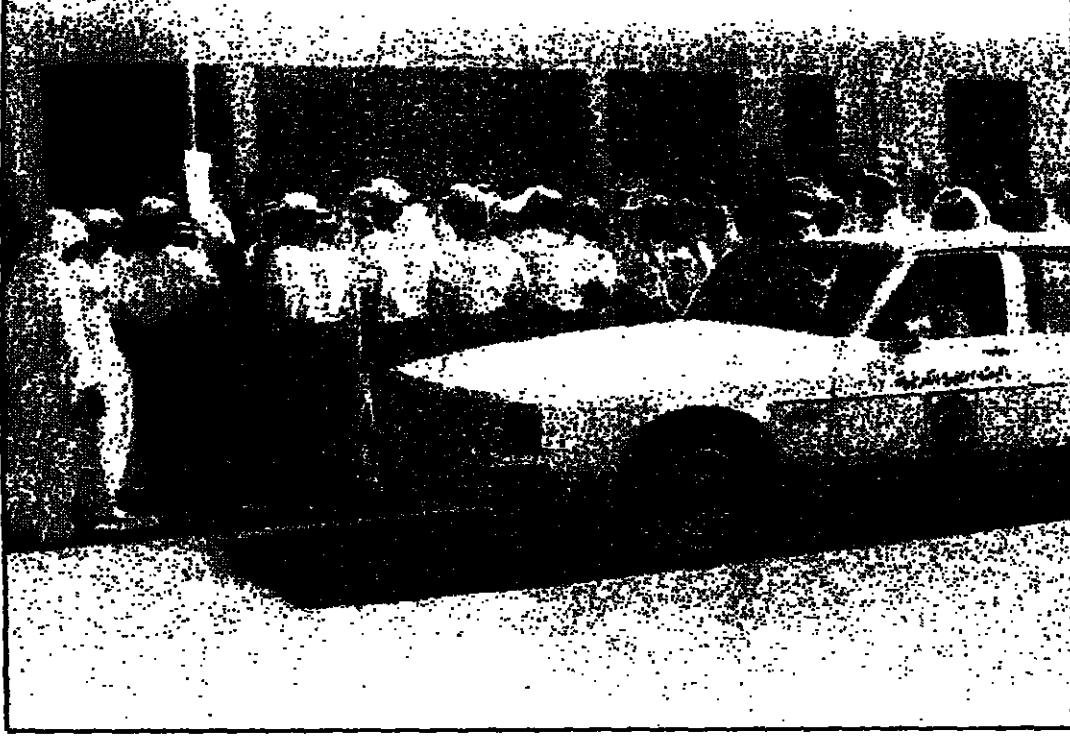
Haj medical team

Minister of Public Health Dr Abdul Razzaq Al Abdul Razzaq and top ministry officials saw off Monday the first Haj medical expedition leaving Kuwait for Saudi Arabia, led by Ibrahim Al Mudaf.

Mudaf said in press statement that the expedition consisted of 11 vehicles, which had already left the country for the holy lands, and that the total number of staff on the expedition is 160 persons, including doctors, pharmacists, nurses, drivers and representatives from the health, education and interior ministries.

He added that the expedition for this season is organised in a way to carefully avoid the disadvantages and shortages of the expedition for the last haj season. He pointed out that the camping facilities will be air-conditioned, ambulances fully equipped with latest state-of-the-art equipment, dental care unit is provided, another for lab analysis and different more medical requirements.

He stressed that the Kuwaiti medical expedition will offer its services to all hajjis in the holy land, and not just the hajjis subscribing in Kuwait.



Food and shops licensing

Control on validity of food tightened

THE director of the Foods and Shop-Licensing Department at Kuwait Municipality Youssef Al Mailem has said that the department is currently considering a plan to qualify Kuwaiti cadres through the holding of intensive training courses, both abroad and at home, and introducing computers to all department activities, besides providing fair incentives to all staff.

He told a local daily that the department is presently reconsidering the existing rules and regulations and related decisions under the existing penal code, pointing out that the penalties stipulated under certain clauses are deemed adequately deterrent, while others require revision and therefore the necessary committees have been formed for this purpose.

Mailem said that the maximum penalty for certain violations involving the selling of outdated food items is a fine not exceeding KD500.

He added that the department has a number of plans for future implementation.

He pointed out that these plans involve the setting of branch offices for the department in five governorates, the establishment of labs, where chemical and bacteriological tests for food samples can be performed, and others involve the drawing up of a firm policy to regulate the storing of food items in private houses.

He said that the department is exerting much effort to preserve the safety and validity of all types of foods through tightening control and inspection measures over these vital items, whether the import food or local produce.

He said that the department also watches over the food-selling and catering shops to ensure that public health and sanitary conditions are observed and that the items sold are valid for human consumption.

He said that the department is not technically understaffed and that there is close co-ordination between Kuwait Municipality and the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training for holding annual training courses to graduate health assistants in numbers commensurate with the increase in the number of shops. He also pointed out that there are studies being conducted to overcome this

problem through assigning administrators on clerical works to take up technical positions.

He upheld the integrity of the inspection staff, pointing out that bad elements are found anywhere who only reflect themselves and should not be the reason to sneer the reputation of all inspectors.

He said that the department is implementing a slow Kuwaitisation plan which is carefully studied in order not to hamper work progress and utilise the experience of non-Kuwaiti veterans in the field, by training young cadres.

He said that non-Kuwaiti inspectors account for 9 per cent of the total inspectors, adding that the department is working diligently to develop the performance level of all controls and centres operating under its direct supervision.

He added that for this purpose intensive training programmes are being developed for all technical and administrative staff, which also include sending inspectors to training courses held abroad.

He said that inspectors are introduced to latest inspection techniques whereby they could test the food items employing modern highly-developed quick-testing techniques.

On the types of violations committed and tickets issued to violators, he said that inspectors would issue tickets for failure to observe sanitary conditions, offering outdated items for sale, unauthorised practice, or transgressing the line of practice authorised.

He said that all tickets issued will be carefully investigated and considered before referral to the legal department to verify the nature of transgressions committed, which take some time before final referral to the Investigative Department, and hence no compromise will be possible for the people involved.

The municipality has decided to suspend the issuance of licences to pedlars and to refrain from renewing expired licences, Mailem said. He added that special arrangements have been made in co-ordination with the Social Affairs and Labour Ministry to freeze the permits given to them by the ministry.

Meanwhile, he continued special squads of inspectors roam the areas and issue tickets to pedlars and confiscate their stuff.

US envoy to UN arrives June 19

UNITED NATIONS, June 12, (Kuna): US Ambassador to the UN Thomas R. Pickering will visit Kuwait in the middle of next week for "pre-general assembly consultations on a whole range of Arab issues," a US spokesman in the mission said.

Pickering will be accompanied by Ambassador Alexander Watson, his deputy, is expected in Kuwait on June 19-20. They will hold talks with Kuwaiti officials on items on the UN assembly's agenda for next fall, the spokesman told Kuna Monday.

One of the key issues to be debated during the next session is the 1975 assembly resolution equating Zionism with racism which the US will try to have abrogated.

Pickering will also visit some countries in the Middle East and the Gulf, such as Bahrain and Oman.

Pickering is now on an African tour discussing "topics of interest to African nations," the spokesman said.

Kuwait may ban British beef

By Jadranka Porter Arab Times staff

KUWAIT is considering a ban on British beef imports following an outbreak of "mad cow" disease in Britain that prompted scores of countries to shut off their markets to its cattle and beef.

The decision, now under consideration at the Kuwait Municipality, is expected in a few days according to Dr Rafiq Shaar. Other Gulf states including Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Qatar have temporarily stopped British beef imports after the same measure had been taken by Britain's partners in the Common Market.

The information about the size of British beef imports to Kuwait was not available yesterday but Dr Shaar of the Kuwait Municipality said they were comparatively small and consisted of frozen, processed and canned meat.

Large food retail outlets such as the Sultan Center and Safeway supermarket say they do not sell British beef.

Kuwait does not import dairy cows from Britain and there has been no evidence of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) among the 3,000 cows that come from West Germany, Australia and the US, reports Dr Mohammed Mohana of the Veterinary Department.

It is this department that alerted the Municipality two weeks ago of the possible risk to consumers from British beef. However, an expert committee of EEC vets said that there was no evidence beef was dangerous for human consumption but stopped short of declaring British beef completely safe. The committee ruled that the risk of transmitting the BSE disease to humans was "remote".

The experts also expressed their satisfaction at the measures taken by Britain, where 14,000 cows have died, to stop the spread of the disease. Meanwhile, in London leading vets warned that sausages, burgers and pate are under threat from the mad cow disease in the UK because of abattoir production methods.

Bill Reilly, a senior member of the British Veterinary Association, was quoted by the British Press yesterday as saying that high-tech techniques increase the risk of suspect tissues from infected cows going into foodstuffs like sausages.

Many countries have stopped importing British beef because of the danger of mad cow disease affecting British cattle, and leading to mental disturbance in the animals' brains.

Death sentence for premeditated murder

THE Criminal Court has sentenced a man to death for the premeditated murder of his countryman.

The court heard that the defendant had a dispute with the victim over a piece of land which he had sold to him in return for a sum of money. However, the defendant lost the money which he carried on him on the day of the incident to the victim after a gambling game.

The defendant remonstrated angrily with the victim and failed to get him to pay back the money he lost to him in the game, so he took out a knife which he carried and killed him.

THE Court of Cassation has upheld a ten-year imprisonment sentence issued by the Court of First Instance and the Higher Court of Appeal, against a man charged, with possession, trading and use of drugs.

The court heard that the defendant was trapped by a security officer who posed as a buyer and paid him marked money for two rolls of drugs.

The defendant was arrested upon delivery of the contraband and a subsequent search of his flat led to the confiscation of drug-smoking equipment.

He told the court he had contacts in India who supplied the drugs and that he had more contraband in his possession, which police also retrieved.

The court also fined the defendant KD5000 for smuggling the drugs into the country and ordered him deported upon completion of his term in jail.

THE Criminal Court sentenced a man to 2 years imprisonment and fined him KD100 for dishonesty. A restaurant owner got two plain signed papers from his employee. On them he wrote something to show that the employee was indebted to him for KD4,000 and KD3,000 respectively and submitted the two papers to the court. The court referred the papers to forgery experts who found they were fake. The court found the complainant guilty and accused him of dishonesty and sentenced him to 2 years.

THE Criminal Court sentenced a young man to 4 years imprisonment with hard labour and ordered his deportation for trying to steal a car and forging an official document. The court was told that the youth offered a good 1988 model car for sale at surprisingly low price to a car company.

The accused showed the manager of the company the car's registration book clearly showing the car was his. He paid the money and asked the accused to transfer the car into his name. In the meanwhile, the manager of the company asked the traffic department about the car and found that it belongs to a rental car office and the youth rented it for three days and forged the registration book. The youth admitted the charges.

THE Court of Higher Appeal reduced a jail sentence on a driver who killed 5 persons to only six months. The Criminal Court sentenced the driver to one year imprisonment for driving at high speed and not taking enough precaution. The court was told that the driver knocked down and killed 3 young girls and two maids while crossing the road in Sulabiya area. The driver said that as there was a marriage party beside the road and clouds of dust were evolving, vision was not clear and he couldn't see the ladies crossing the road. The ladies died instantly. The drivers defence attorney claimed he was not responsible for the killing as the ladies crossed the road not from the proper pedestrian place. The court found the driver guilty of driving over the allowed speed limit and sentenced him to 1 year imprisonment. The Court of Higher Appeal in its mercy reduced it to 6 months.

THE Criminal Court sentenced a man to three years imprisonment with hard labour and two of his accomplices to two years imprisonment with labour and ordered their deportation from the country.

The three convicts were accused of stealing money and gold from a house by breaking and entering through the main door. The owner of the house along with his family were outside the house and discovered the crime on their return.

Diligent police work resulted in successfully apprehending the burglars.

THE Cassation Court upheld the verdict of 15 years imprisonment and a fine of KD15,000 passed on an accused for smuggling hashish and cocaine into the country.

Investigations had confirmed that the accused was dealing in narcotics and after a careful stake-out of his premises a raid was conducted. The search revealed 351.60 grammes of hashish and cocaine hidden inside the accused's bathroom.

During investigation, the accused confessed that he had smuggled the contraband by hiding it in the panelling of his car and driving into the country.

THE Criminal Court sentenced a man to three and a half years imprisonment with hard labour and ordered him to pay KD500 fine for smuggling alcohol. Another man accused in the same case was acquitted.

The court was told that the accused arrived at Kuwait International Airport carrying three suitcases, but left the airport without collecting them. A custom's officer suspecting the contents, opened the suitcases and found 75 bottles of liquor.

On being contacted the accused denied ownership of the three suitcases and said that another man had requested him to carry them to Kuwait since he did not have any suitcases with him.

However, police informed the court that the three suitcases bore the first name of the accused and one of the suitcases had a dishdasha similar to the one the accused was wearing and of the same size.

Shoura a timeless practice: Hmoud

IN a televised symposium Dr Ibrahim Al Hmoud, associate professor at Kuwait University said that the concept of democracy is deeply entrenched in the minds of the Kuwaiti masses, which is given expression in a constitutional manner since 1962.

He said that the principle of consultation (shoura) or counselling has been a time-honoured practice in Kuwait, where the Amir of Kuwait used to meet people at diwanis on different occasions and listen to their views and consult them on various issues.

He pointed out that the Kuwaiti constitution stipulates that the Amir has the authority and power to practice his ruling office through adopting decrees that need not be affected by the political system of the government. These include the appointment of a crown prince and ministers after approval by the National Assembly.

He said that apart from these absolute rights, the Amir will exercise his official power through the ministers, and that any decision or decree adopted must bear the signature of the Amir, the crown prince and the concerned ministers.

He pointed out that in accordance with the provisions of article 174 of the constitution the Amir has set up an ad-hoc committee to study and determine the factors responsible for the failure of the previous parliament. Based on the results HH the Amir can recommend any revisions deemed necessary to the constitution to guarantee more freedoms.

Another participant in the symposium, Dr Abdullah Al Omar, professor of Arts at Kuwait University, stressed that the function of the National Council is to lay down the right constraints to govern the relationship between the legislative and executive powers.

He added that following the completion of studies of the factors responsible for the failure of the past parliamentary life, the results will be submitted to the new National Council which will be elected as per 1960 constitution. It will stay in power for a four-year cycle and that it is likely that the new council will not complete its full cycle in office, as the minimum limit has not been defined.

Hmoud said that the council will be dissolved upon completing its mission and that need not be dissolved by an Amiri decree. If the National Council should transgress the powers entrusted to the National Assembly, it will be doing so unconstitutionally.

He said that the National Council will submit its decision for consideration and endorsement to HH the Amir.

Bishara for Jordan

AMMAN, June 12, (Kuna): Secretary-General of the Gulf Co-operation Council, (GCC) Abdullah Bishara will arrive on short visit to Jordan tomorrow during which he will meet with top Jordanian officials.

ARAB TIMES GRAND

BINGO

COMPETITION NO. 77

PRIZES

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 Second Full House: KD 60
 Third Full House: KD 40
 Top Line: KD 25
 Four Corners: KD 25

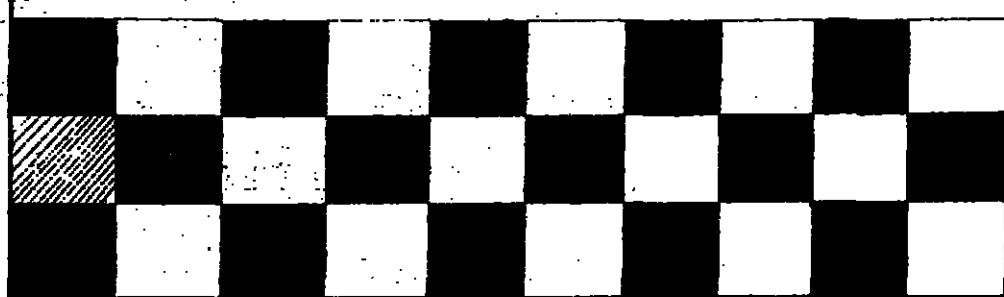
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HOW TO PLAY

1. Solve the clue underneath the entry card (below) and enter the number that you think is the answer in the shaded square on the left-hand side of the card. This square must be completed.
2. Now select a further 14 numbers between 1 and 90 inclusive and enter these in the remaining open squares. You should now have 15 DIFFERENT numbers on your card. Please write them clearly, in ballpoint or ink.
3. Fill in your name and address in the

- appropriate lines on the form, in block letters.
4. Make an exact copy of your 15 numbers on the copy card provided underneath, and keep it so that you can check off your numbers as they appear in the ARAB TIMES every day.
5. Register your Free Bingo entry by sending it to the ARAB TIMES. Read details below carefully.
6. Watch out for YOUR numbers each morning in the ARAB TIMES.

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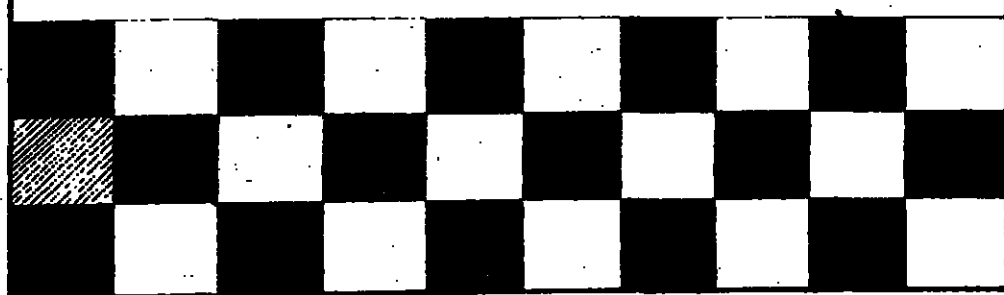
Kuwait National Council seats

NAME (Mr./Mrs./Miss)

ADDRESS

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How to claim

EVERYDAY four numbers will appear on Page Two. A number may be repeated. If this happens, continue with the rest of the numbers. Check off on your copy card the number or numbers which coincide with your selected numbers. Do this every day.

Please make a note of the last number you checked off, i.e. the one that completes your claim. Claimants will be asked to give this number which will decide the allocation of prizes.

When you have a claim, phone: 4813566/272 or 287 between 12 noon and 1 pm. Claims after 1 pm WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. You or anyone telephoning for you must have your copy card when the claim is made.

Is the initial of your surname in the front of the envelope?

PLEASE PRINT YOUR NAME ON THE BACK OF THE ENVELOPE AND INITIAL OF YOUR SURNAME ON THE LEFT HAND TOP CORNER IN FRONT.

This is essential for the speedy checking of claims. Entries received without names and initials as mentioned above will be disqualified.

When you have completed your entry

card and copy card and filled in your name and address, send in your entries, by post, addressed to:

Bingo,
 Arab Times,
 P.O. Box 2270,
 13023 Safat Kuwait.

A surer alternative is to deliver by hand to the Arab Times, Al-Seyassah Building, Airport Road, Shuwaikh.

Low doctors' benefits issue to be redressed

Positive response from premier

MINISTER of Health, Dr Abdul Razzaq Al Yousif Al Abdul Razzaq announced that HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah has promised to redress the issue of low retirement benefits paid to Kuwaiti doctors.

Speaking to a local daily, the official in a special statements, said that HH the Crown Prince has expressed his keenness to

improve the end-of-service benefits of Kuwaiti doctors.

Giving this background after a doctors' delegation had met with Sheikh Saad, Razzaq said that fifty per cent of a doctor's salary consists of allowances which are not taken into account in calculating retirement benefits. He said that at the time of retirement, a doctor's basic salary does not exceed KD600, though, the total

salary at that time is around KD1,500.

Meanwhile, General Secretary of the Kuwait Medical Specialties Institute, Dr Abdullah Al Refai stressed that the doctors' delegation had received positive and well intended response from Sheikh Saad in resolving this issue. He indicated that a memo issued by the Medical Society called for modification in the methodologies of computing retirement benefits by recom-

mending that these be computed on an all inclusive basis.

A special committee will be formed comprising members of the Medical Society, the Ministry of Public Health, the Civil Service Commission and the Social Security Establishment to find ways of improving conditions of Kuwaiti doctors upon the directives from HH the Crown Prince, Refai said.

Shipping adversely affected: study

THE UNION of Arab Gulf Chambers of Commerce have confirmed the sluggishness of the activities of the Arab Gulf Maritime Transport despite its distinguished location of the region with respect to international trade.

In a recent published study which will be the focus of discussion during a meeting between the Arab Gulf Chambers representatives and officials from the Kuwait based United Arab Shipping Company (UASC), the union reiterated that the level of Arab Gulf trade in marine shipping has been adversely affected due to a combination of factors. In recent years, they stated that these factors comprised international economic upheavals, fluctuations in oil prices among member states, austerity trends, the recent volatile situations in the region and the downturn in infrastructure projects.

Retreat

The study pointed out that Arab Gulf imports had begun retreating since 1983. Total imports had dropped from 62 million tons in 1984 to about 42 million tons in 1986. During the years 1983-1986 Arab Gulf States had disbursed a total of US \$1.7 billion as shipping charges on imports. Shipping charges on exports amounted to US \$26.6 billion during the same period.

The study further pointed out that shipping charges had registered a gradual increase since 1987. It attributed the rise to the ceasefire between Iraq and Iran in 1988, gradual increase in oil prices, the relative boom prevailing in the region after 1988 and the consequent increase in demand for marine shipping services.

However, ironically, the study said that the Arab Gulf merchants had failed to realise benefits from the post-war circumstances which in fact were supposed to lead to a reduction in shipping charges due to the reduction of the war risk premium which ranged between 5 to 12 per cent of shipping costs.

In the study, the union called for considering the possibility of registering some vessels in the Arab Gulf countries. It said that the GCC Secretariat General is currently studying the possibility of achieving this goal in view of its importance towards the stabilisation of shipping charges with the objective of protecting Arab Gulf importers and exporters.

Airport security

KUWAIT International Airport Security Department, undertakes comprehensive security measures during the peak periods, director of security at the airport Col Mahmoud Al Dosari said.

Speaking to the magazine "Dakhliya" he said that due to the fact that summer travel and haj seasons coincide, new security measures will be adopted which include the use of computers and specialised counters for baggage.

In this respect, the department has entered into several agreements with the General Civil Aviation Department, Kuwait Airways and other airlines. Security co-operation is enhanced by way of close co-operation with other airlines, the official said.

Workshop on tobacco use

Dr Robert E. Mecklenburg, former Assistant Surgeon General, United States Public Health Service, and presently consultant at the National Cancer Institute, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Maryland, USDA will present a two-day workshop on the economic and health effects of tobacco use, and the role of the dental profession in establishing tobacco-use intervention services in clinical practice.

In the United States, it has been demonstrated that brief medical and dental office intervention services can produce 5-15 per cent long-term smoking cessation rates. These rates are significant because they culminate in major changes in public behavior over the time.

Dr. Mecklenburg and the Ministry of Public Health will discuss these methodologies and their application for Kuwait on June 23-24, 1990.



Librarians meet

Deputy Director General of the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training, Homeud Al Mudal stressed on the authority's concern for improving libraries at the colleges and training centres. He was speaking to the first meeting of librarians at Paast. The meeting was called to discuss problems facing libraries and plans to develop them.

Saudis call for better working environment

Better deal for workers

GENEVA, June 12. (Kuna): The Minister of Labour and Social Affairs of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Mohammed Ben Ali Al Fayed, yesterday stressed the significance of ecological interdependence which requires international co-operation.

Addressing the International Labour Conference, Al Fayed said that environmental issues were of vital importance for mankind, it is therefore being incumbent upon the international community to pool efforts to safeguard the planet from the dangers that confront it.

Environmental policy, he pointed out, has a great influence on the world of work and has implications for poverty and industrial safety.

Fayed noted that the balance between development and quality of the environment is changing as time goes by, particularly in terms of income and consumption which are rising. This calls for a new strategy which takes into account the fact that a healthy working environment will make a great contribution towards environmental protection in general.

The Saudi Minister observed that in his country a special body has been set up to concern itself with the protection of the environment and the improvement of natural resources.

"This body is framing policies on the environment and arranging for consultation to secure co-operation of the population with the aim of protecting the environment in view of the

importance Saudi Arabia attaches to the protection of our natural heritage," he said.

Fayed further indicated that the government of Saudi Arabia has introduced new measures with respect to safety and health in industry. They are giving consideration to specimens of substances used in industry with an eye to guaranteeing health of workers.

Steps have been taken in the Saudi Arabia to put an end to desertification, to increase wheat production, improve purification of water, and cultivate land.

He also stated that the government ensures that all workers have decent accommodation, and that they receive essential services in the fields of social security and education.

Commenting on the convention being discussed on nightwork, Fayed told the body that this needs to be flexible and bears in mind the differences in social and economic circumstances of different countries.

Concluding, the Saudi Minister of Labour referred to the millions of immigrant Arab workers in Europe and said that the least they can be offered is social welfare protection.

Meanwhile, Kuwait represented by the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour recently received the future working programme for developing work statistics in the Arab Gulf countries which had been prepared by the follow up bureau affiliated to the Arab Gulf Ministers of Labour and Social Affairs Council, a local daily reported.

Euphrates dispute

Saudis may mediate

ISTANBUL, June 12. (Reuters): Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal arrived in Ankara with a message that could include an offer to mediate in a dispute over sharing the waters of the Euphrates river.

"The letter is possibly on bilateral relations between Turkey and the kingdom. It may also carry an offer by the kingdom to act as an intermediary in the water dispute," the official said, giving no further details.

Prince Saud returned home the same day after meeting President Turgut Ozal.

Turkey halted the flow of the river to downstream Syria and Iraq for one month earlier this year to help fill its Ataturk Dam. Syria and Iraq protested sharply.

Irrigation ministers of the three countries are expected to meet in Ankara on June 26 to conclude an agreement on sharing the Euphrates, a major irrigation and power lifeline.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Murat Sungar told Reuters that Turkey was puzzled by a statement from Iraqi Oil Minister Issam Abdulrahman Al Chalabi that Ankara was not taking the Euphrates issue seriously.

"We note that the water issue is intentionally being presented to Arab public opinion as a problem," he said.

The Iraqi weekly Alef Ba'a quoted Chalabi as saying little progress had been made in negotiations on the Euphrates question since 1980.

"It is clear that such remarks are not encouraging to Turkey's positive approach on the issue," Sungar said.

Tax agreements with six countries concluded

KUWAIT has concluded several agreements with various countries to avoid double taxation, a senior official at the Ministry of Finance said.

In an interview with a local daily, the director of the Tax Department at Kuwait's Ministry of Finance, Khaled Al Subaihi said that during the last six months, Kuwait had finalised this issue with Hungary, Switzerland, India, France, Australia and Poland.

Subaihi said that the Ministry of Finance invites all government authorities, the private sector and individuals who could benefit from these agreements to communicate with the ministry. After due process, bonafide beneficiaries will be provided with the necessary certificates exempting them from taxes as stipulated in the agreements just concluded.

Specifically, the official said that governmental authorities and the private sector establishments will be granted exemptions with retrospective effect as of January 1990. Tax exemption will be granted in total on equity dividends of those companies in which the government has 25 per cent equity participation. The official said that these agreements were aimed at providing ideal investment opportunities for Kuwaiti investors in countries that had endorsed these agreements.

With respect to capital tax gains, government authorities and private companies will be entitled to entire tax write-offs on equity and dividends on bonds.

Subaihi disclosed that an Amiri decree had been issued recently which endorsed an agreement between Kuwait and China for avoiding duplication in tax. According to the articles of the agreement, the government authorities and the firms in the private sector will be entitled to total tax exemption in those cases where the authority or firm possessed over 20 per cent of companies shares in China.

Bahrain poison centre soon

MANAMA, June 12. (GNA): The Public Health Information Centre in Bahrain has begun preparing special studies for the establishment of the proposed Data Bank for Poisoning and Related Preventive Measures.

The director of the Information Centre Dr Sameer Khalaf said in a press statement to the Bahraini daily Al Ayyam that the centre started collecting the necessary data for conducting the intended studies.

The centre is looking forward to a meeting by the Gulf health work team, the date of which will be announced following approval, for the purpose of discussing issues related to this project.

Khalaf said that a meeting was held by the team in Bahrain earlier which was attended by representatives from Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and

Iraq. He added that a full working paper was presented at the meeting which adopted a number of recommendations submitted for endorsement to the Health Secretariat General and was discussed by the council of GCC health ministers at its recent session in Geneva.

The main points stressed by the paper included preventive measures to combat poisoning sustained from the working environment or that caused by misuse of household medications or chemicals.

The recommendations adopted at the meeting stressed the need to raise health education about the hazards of toxic materials and ways to prevent household poisoning cases, as well as the importance of enlightening parents how to behave if they get a case of poisoning.

Sudan faces war: Nial

ABU DHABI, June 12. (Kuna): Sudanese Minister of Religious Guidance Abdullah Deng Nial yesterday warned that Sudan is targeted in its identity and faces a brutal Zionist and secular war.

Speaking to Kuna, Nial said the Islamic world must shoulder responsibility to defend Sudan against this war, which seeks to "undermine the defence line of the Arab and Muslim worlds."

He noted that his current tour in the Gulf area was designed to consult with these countries on the challenges facing Islam and Islamic activities in addition to exchanging talks with leaders of Islamic institutions, especially the ones responsible for distribution of aid.

Nial started his tour to the region with a visit to Kuwait. He is scheduled to visit Qatar after his current visit to the UAE.

In Kuwait, the Sudanese minister met with his Kuwaiti counterpart Khalid Ahmad Al Nassar and held rounds of talks with various figures concerned with Kuwaiti charity organisations centering on the role of these organisations.

Barges in Vienna

KUWAIT, June 12. (Kuna): Board chairman and general director of Kuwait News Agency (Kuna) Barges Hamoud Al Barges left for Vienna to participate in conference on Western media's methods in dealing with Arab causes and Arab-Western media co-ordination.

A delegation from the Federation of Arab News Agencies (FANA) will accompany Barges, who is chairman of FANA.

A number of directors from European news agencies will be participating in the executive committee of Arab-European dialogue.

Barges who has been head of FANA since 1979 began a chain of dialogues, seminars and conferences with heads of agencies in the Western and Eastern blocs as well as newspaper chief editors and officials of different media apparatuses in order to secure an unbiased coverage of Arab issues.

EDITORIALS

ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

TOO long a sacrifice can make a stone of the heart—
William Butler, Irish poet.

OPINION

A right step at the right time

THE cabinet resignation has for long been a popular demand. We wouldn't say that the resignation was delayed. Instead, let's say it's better to take a step forward than remain stagnant. The step has now been taken in a different atmosphere; with important national considerations and envisioning new future plans. Such factors are certainly better than before.

The government now sees the true children of this nation and can examine their demands in a clearer manner. The government is certainly aware that we have entered the last decade of the 20th century. It must, therefore, be remembered that the main wish of the people, who responded positively to their leader's call revealing their true openness and unhesitant feelings, is to see a dramatic improvement in the performance of the government staff.

The new government must be one that improves economic performance and helps restore the work of economic activists whose roles had been almost frozen for various reasons. We don't say the outgoing cabinet has failed; let's say its efforts were not completely fruitful.

The previous cabinet exerted honest efforts, making some achievements in some spheres and failing in others. This is but natural. More natural, however, is to feel and admit failure, if any. The coming government should be a body that boosts economic performance and preserves national unity shown by the Kuwaiti people during the National Council elections. It is the government which should appoint the right man in the right place. Above all, the new cabinet should fulfill its duties towards the people who were loyal and respected their regime and constitution.

The members of the new cabinet must be able to rise to the level of recent developments. The Kuwaiti leadership has been able to overcome difficult situations in the recent past. The Kuwaiti people have played their part by expressing total support for their leaders, homeland and the constitution. Now, we should not let people with vested interests penetrate and let the outcome become an easy target. We eagerly await the new cabinet, which should concentrate on improving performance by adopting new ideas for the 1990s decade. We should do this as early as possible so that there are no future regrets for delayed actions. Time will tell if what we have done today was right.

Ahmed Al Jarallah

Nigeria experiment
Tensions could
mar pluralism

KADUNA, Nigeria. (Reuters): Drive through Kaduna on a Friday afternoon and you will join others of many faiths waiting patiently in traffic jams as Muslims attending Sabbath prayers crowd the streets around the city's mosques.

Muslims, Christians and believers in traditional African religions mingle in this northern Nigerian state capital, as elsewhere in Africa's most populous nation.

But many in Kaduna — labelled "the land of religious hawks" by the local Democrat newspaper — fear a repeat of Muslim-Christian riots in 1987.

Kaduna is situated in the centre of northern Nigeria, its three million people roughly equally divided between the faiths. Some see it as a potential flashpoint for tensions brought to the surface by an abortive coup on April 22, endangering a political process initiated by military President Ibrahim Babangida to hand power back to civilians by 1992.

"It is absolutely impossible that we can reach 1992 peacefully," said Father Martin Dama, a Roman Catholic priest who is leading figure in the Kaduna branch of the Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN). "There will be fratricidal violence. Christians feel their backs are to the wall," he told Reuters.

This country has seen seven attempted coups and a traumatic civil war in the 30 years since independence from Britain.

Major Gideon Orkar, one of ten officers being tried on treason charges arising from the April coup, claimed to represent "the marginalised and enslaved people of the middle belt and the south."

He articulated the resentment of many of those who feel that Hausa-Fulani northern Muslims systematically exclude others from good schools and government jobs, and divert northwards public funds generated in the south, mainly from oil.

"Whether the government is civilian or military, the Hausa-Fulani cling to power," Dama told Reuters.

It is a sentiment heard among southwestern Yorubas of all faiths, among Catholic Ibos in the east, and among members of more than 200 minority ethnic groups in the central region and elsewhere.

TODAY IN HISTORY

- 1546 — Protestant princes of Germany denounce Council of Trent.
- 1547 — Hungary and Turkey sign five-year truce.
- 1653 — British fleet defeats Dutch off north Foreland.
- 1721 — England joins Treaty of Madrid with Spain and France.
- 1839 — Milosh, King of Serbia, abdicates, and is succeeded by his son Milan.
- 1849 — Communist riots in Paris are crushed.
- 1900 — Boxer uprising against Europeans in China begins.
- 1916 — Jan Christian Smuts captures Wilhelmstadt city in German East Africa.
- 1940 — Paris is declared an open city in World War II.
- 1956 — Last British troops leave Suez Canal base, turn waterway over to Egypt after operating it for 74 years.
- 1969 — Withdrawal of US combat troops from South Vietnam begins with pullout of unit fighting in Mekong Delta.
- 1973 — United States, North Vietnam, South Vietnam and Viet Cong sign new pact in Paris designed to reinforce Vietnam ceasefire.
- 1974 — Army in republic of Yemen seizes power in bloodless coup.
- 1984 — Nicaragua says its troops forced group of US-backed rebels to flee across border into Costa Rica after four days of heavy fighting.
- 1987 — Panamanians stage peaceful protests to demonstrate their displeasure with nation's military leadership.
- 1988 — Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman says a policeman is killed during ethnic protest in Azerbaijani capital of Baku.
- 1989 — Syrian and Christian gunners fight five-hour shelling duel around Beirut.

Mandingos flee Liberia

Govt, rebels to talk in Freetown

MONROVIA, (Reuters): The street outside the Benson Street mosque in central Monrovia is normally jammed with people attending evening prayers on Fridays.

But not in these uncertain days. With rebels close to the Liberian capital and fears of bloody reprisals against the ethnic group that makes up the bulk of the country's Muslim community, the streets are almost empty.

"Now it is very difficult for the mosque to fill up," said Lassana, 36, who makes a living importing goods from neighbouring Ivory Coast and is a member of the Mandingo Muslim community.

"Many of our Mandingo people have been killed at mosques and some people have been assassinating them at their homes," he said.

"Sometimes the rebels take our women and keep them two or three months in the bush, and some men refuse them when they come back."

Terrified

The Muslim community of this rundown West African capital city of 500,000 people is terrified at the approach of the National Patriotic Front of Liberia rebels led by Charles Taylor.

The city has been all but emptied of Mandingos, a Liberian name for people who in neighbouring countries are called Malinke, signifying that they are descended from the ancient trading civilisation of Mali.

Many Malinke run small shops or are tailors, peddlers, money lenders and taxi drivers.

An announcement that talks between the government and the rebels would begin this week in Sierra Leone eased tensions somewhat, but it will take time to undo the damage done in six months of fighting.

Finding a taxi is virtually impossible since many Mandingos who own the bulk of the cars have driven their last fares straight to the border and beyond.

Hundreds of shops remain shuttered all day long because their Mandingo owners have fled.

Escape

They have gone to Sierra Leone or Guinea, which many of them left in the 1960s to escape the socialist regime of the late Guinean leader Sekou Toure.

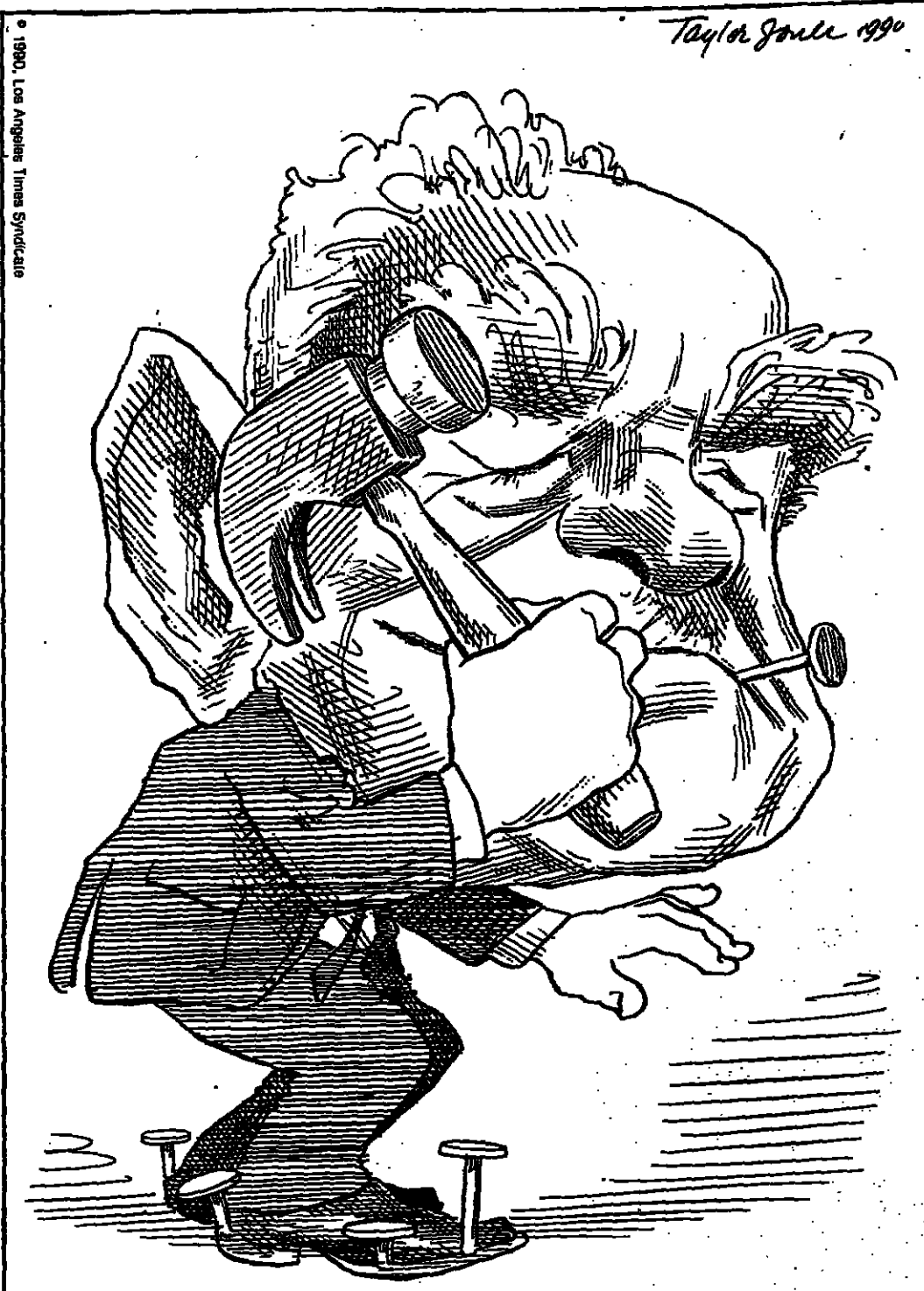
Now they are returning to Guinea after hearing rumours and eyewitness accounts of alleged killings of Mandingos as town after town has fallen to the rebels who invaded on Christmas Eve from neighbouring Ivory Coast.

"If the rebels continue to slaughter the Mandingos... this will become an Islamic feud and that will be something else," said a government official who is a Muslim.

Ironically, Mandingos wield little political power in this West African country founded in 1847 by freed American slaves. Only one or two have top ministerial jobs.

But Mandingos have become victims by association with the rebels' main target — President Samuel Doe and his ruling Krahn tribe — because of perceptions of the mostly Gio and Mano rebels that Mandingos have prospered under Doe at their expense.

"It's an economic problem," an African diplomat said. "The Muslims are very dynamic and they have a certain monopoly on commerce and transport."



"They have a lifestyle that is a bit better than those around them, and they are foreigners so they get blamed for the country's economic disaster."

One African embassy in the capital city of this country is jammed every day trying to flee the

country.

One woman said she had been forced to flee her home (miles) northeast of the capital, two weeks ago after rebels invaded and, she alleged, began shooting Mandingos indiscriminately.

Letters to the editor

Congrats,
Indian School

SIR: We sincerely wish to congratulate the Board of Trustees, principals and the teachers for their sincere efforts in achieving 100 per cent success for the Indian School, in the All India Senior School Certificate Examination held in March, 1990. We also congratulate the top scorers and all other students for their success and for keeping the reputation of their school.

It is encouraging to see that the new members are paying attention to complaints from parents. Some of the members have been found inspecting classrooms especially for checking the working of the room air-conditioners. We hope that our children may soon be able to enjoy their class in the cool breeze from the air-conditioners.

We would thank those who have given sincere attention to the sufferings of our children in this hot summer weather. We also request our parent members to see the unhygienic condition of water coolers, wash-basins and toilets and take urgent remedial action during this summer vacation.

We expect that the new Board of Trustees would be able to sort out the grievances of the staff and solve them quickly and fairly. At the same time, we do not hesitate to point out the booming tuition-mindedness among teachers. We request these teachers to refrain from such unhealthy practices and to devote their resources and energy to teaching inside classrooms of the school in order to benefit all the students and parents. We look forward to seeing a new look out after the summer holidays.

We wish all success for the new Board of Trustees with professional skills and sincere motives, in their action to bring about sweeping changes to improve the status of the school and fulfill the hopes and aspirations of the students and their parents.

Parents,
(Name and address supplied)

Afghan mujahedeen

SIR: This letter is in reference to a recent article entitled "Aid groups threatened — Afghan women afraid" on May 28.

This article, in its entirety, is the essence of anti-mujahedeen propaganda, and is filled with so much incorrect information that it is pitiful. This is another blatant attempt by the sick politicians to discredit Islam and Muslims once again.

It is only fair to allow the truth to be told about the real situation after the seeds of falsehood have already been sown. The entire article was obviously written with the notion to get people to be against the "rebels" and to feel sorry for the Christian authorities in Pakistan at refugee locations, as well as to despise the so-called "fundamentalists" who these unnamed sources claim are acting so unreasonably by fighting back against Western and other influences.

The wire services as well as all the international authorities (such as the UN, the CIA, etc.) have been continually campaigning to propagandise the war in Afghanistan and are constantly repor-

ting misleading, if not totally slanderous, stories about the war, the mujahedeen, and anything else relating to Afghanistan.

Now, to get to this most recent article coming from AP wire service out of Peshawar, Pakistan — the main location of refugees and mujahedeen. The article starts out by telling of an Afghan woman who goes around under an alias, and incognito because the fundamentalist mujahedeen are threatening her. Either this is a lie or people have found out what this woman really is doing, because despite all the propaganda otherwise, the Afghan mujahedeen do not have any interest in bothering innocent people, or fighting their countrymen unless these people are fighting against Islam.

"Farida's" statement that the mujahedeen are not like humans is true. They are definitely not the "humans" she's used, they are true Muslims fighting for the sake of Islam, and no other reason, against the superpowers, communism, and anyone else who is oppressing them in pursuing the practice of Islam.

Accused

They are accused, in the article, of redirecting their fury from Moscow to Western "humanitarian aid groups." I find this quite humorous. First of all, the war started originally against the Kabul based government which was communist and totally oppressing Islam, then Moscow stepped in, and soon to follow, all the aid groups.

Secondly, let me tell you a little bit about those "humanitarian aid groups," as they are so ironically called. Just one of the many, many horrendous tales to be told: The Red Cross in Pakistan, around five to seven years ago, were operating "massage parlours" under the guise of hospitals. The injured mujahedeen would be taken to these "hospitals" and forced to be attended by beautiful, sexy nurses (no male nurses, of course) — these "nurses" would come and try to seduce them with "special massages," etc. The same mujahedeen were furnished with a variety of girls, posters, by force. When these strong-willed, highly religious men complained about such treatment, they were promptly informed that if they wanted to be treated in the Red Cross hospitals they would have to accept these practices. So, of course, they had no choice but to refuse to be taken to the Red Cross hospitals, and chose instead to receive substandard treatment, rather than be forced to commit heinous sins by the so-called "humanitarian" organisation.

If anyone wants to look deeper into the programme of groups like "Shelter Now International" (the group mentioned in the article as one of the recent military targets of the mujahedeen refugees) it would quickly be seen the kind of tactics these people are using in an effort to stamp out Islam.

"Shelter Now International," an Australian based organisation, started out by giving milk to the orphans, an innocent action by any standards. The next step was to build a children's playground which was frequented by young children, also no problem by the Islamic standards of the Afghan people, but, soon afterwards, older children were being drawn to the playgrounds, including girls past the age of puberty, along with boys of the same age, and this was only the

beginning.

Then they built men's and women's lavatories, this was nice, except for the fact that they were built right next to each other, thus encouraging mixing of men and women, a thing unheard of in Afghan Muslim society. Then, if all that wasn't bad enough, it was discovered that they, this wonderful "humanitarian" organisation, had been putting sedatives in the milk that was being distributed, and in this way, the women were losing their inhibitions and thus even more things were happening, such as loose morals, etc. This was about the time that the mujahedeen heard of their efforts to undermine the society, and, also, at the same time, 1,000 plastic pornographic body parts were found — just think of the implications of that discovery — and soon afterwards the "Shelter Now International" group in Pakistan was removed from the map.

Referred

Another point constantly referred to in the press is the accusation that the mujahedeen are splintered and jealous of each other. These stories are always grossly exaggerated and full of half-truths, lies, and misleading information. The fact is, there are seven different fighting units all with their own commanders, but they are all fighting in harmony for exactly the same goal, and with full interaction and relations amongst each other.

Throughout the entire article a lot of Western "personalities" seemed to have plenty of comments on how weak the mujahedeen are, how divided they are, and how ridiculously close to the edge they are, but, they offer no evidence of that. One only has to look at the actual activities of the mujahedeen to see that all these comments are filled with hot air; what with tall tales of Helmand's "acid throwing days," and the misnamed Abdur-Raaf Sayyaf (his actual name), and other idiotic references.

These "aid" groups come into the Islamic societies and deem they want to "help" these strictest of Muslims; strict in faith and virtue (proof of their virtue and very pious characters is the very kind and hospitable way that they treat their prisoners of war, to the degree that a great number of them embrace Islam and start fighting alongside the mujahedeen), while, at the same time, they insist on forcing these strict Muslims to accept the loose morality of the West, and of the mujahedeen refuse to accept they are thus accused of being radicals, etc.

All in all, I think it is now pretty clear that there is as big a propaganda war against the mujahedeen as there is in the rest of the world against Islam in general, but the mujahedeen are sticking to their guns both literally and figuratively, and will continue to do so in spite of the lies. These people will not sell their religion for a small price.

Mia Ponzio,
Safet.

ALL Letters to the Editor must contain the writer's name and address. Publication is at the discretion of the Editor and letters are subject to the editing process for space or other reasons.

Canada
Nothing will
stop Quebec
secession

OTTAWA, (UPI): Attempts to keep the French-speaking province of Quebec part of Canada are destined to fail no matter how vigorously the country's political leaders champion the unity cause.

Quebec's 6.2 million French-speaking people have never considered themselves part of Canada, but have sought restively since becoming a partner in confederation in 1867 to be their own nation.

The Meech Lake Accord, a constitutional amendment that recognizes Quebec as a distinct society and gives it the power to promote and preserve the French language and culture, provides only a lull in Quebec's search for sovereignty.

Threats

The accord was endorsed Saturday by nine of the 10 provincial leaders and the federal government after a week of marathon negotiations and continued threats by Quebec to secede if all of its conditions weren't met.

But its fate hinges on the Atlantic province of Newfoundland after its leader, Clyde Wells, said he could not support an agreement negotiated at Quebec's gun point.

Quebec already considers itself a separate entity having little in common with the other provinces.

"People in the rest of Canada should stop thinking of Quebec as a simple province. They should accept it as being not only a distinct society but a nation," said Claude Morin, a leading Quebec academic. He was a minister in the separatist Parti Quebecois government that ruled the province from 1976 to 1985.

The Meech Lake Accord, Morin says, will not satisfy Quebec's demands. But the emotional negotiations over the distinct society clause and the special powers it confers on Quebec will serve as a useful prelude to a new relationship with the rest of Canada, one in which commercial ties are maintained between the two societies, but little else.

That is hard for English-speaking Canadians to accept, mainly because Canadians hate anything that upsets the status quo. Even with their heads in the sand, however, a lot of Canadians have come to resent being held prisoner to the nationalistic pressure of Quebec.

Continue

This will continue, says acclaimed University of Calgary historian David Bercusson, unless Canada is willing to "face its demons."

"The question of Quebec's independence must be squarely faced if we are to have constitutional peace with Quebec or without it," he said.

Until then, he added, Quebec will be fully in the driver's seat. It will demand concessions and get them, threatening, like a truculent schoolboy, to collect its marbles and leave.

Between the two founding cultures, English and French, there is a deep, unbridgeable chasm between the two founding cultures.

Canada's western provinces, which form a stronger economic region than Quebec, have grown increasingly dissatisfied within the confederation, mainly because the two largest provinces, Quebec and Ontario, have the greatest influence over the federal political process and get the lion's share of Ottawa's goodies.

They are tired of a province that wins concessions by threats.

Calgary lawyer John Webb said the common response to Quebec's demand for favours is, "don't threaten us anymore."

Eventually, English-speaking Canada must realize it cannot negotiate constitutional matters with Quebec because there will only be one party offering to bargain in good faith. When the constitutional talks began Sunday, Quebec made it clear they would never accept changes in the Meech Lake Accord.

QUOTE ME

"I'm surprised we wound up in second place. Considering the situation we find ourselves in — by our own fault — and the campaign that was led against us, especially by parties that didn't make it into parliament, I think we did quite well." — Czechoslovak Communist Party secretary Vasil Mohorita.

"Given the fact that these are the first free elections, and against the background of the elections as a whole, I would say that those minor infractions could not be regarded as something discrediting the elections as a whole." — Bulgarian Electoral Commission president Zhivko Stalev.

"The reality of Peru's crisis demands an extraordinary force. A government of national unity is required in order for the country to move ahead. The crisis in its diverse forces is hitting us hard." — Peruvian President-elect Alberto Fujimori.

"It's the greatest day in Bulgaria's history in at least 50 years. I think it's a frontier we are crossing to join universally and wholeheartedly the family of democratic nations." — Bulgarian Prime Minister Andrei Lunakov.

"The Bush administration has continued this dialogue because we believe in the absence of such a dialogue, Palestinians from the occupied territories would be less likely to participate in the peace process. But we have never pressed Israel to negotiate with the PLO. We have never sought to bring the PLO into the peace process through the back door..." — Vice-President Dan Quayle.

"While flag desecration — like virulent ethnic and religious epithets, vulgar repudiations of the draft and scurrilous caricatures — is deeply offensive to many, the government may not prohibit the expression of an idea simply because society finds the idea itself offensive or disagreeable." — Justice William Brennan on US flag desecration.

"According to the polling done at the exits of the voting locations, an unmistakable majority has favoured my adversary. Respectful of the uses of democracy, I accept the decision of the Peruvian people. I congratulate the engineer Alberto Fujimori." — Vargas Llosa conceding defeat to Fujimori in the Peruvian presidential election.

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Gold strengthens Dollar mixed

LONDON, June 12. (AP) The dollar ended narrowly mixed in Europe today, while the pound soared on a report that the British currency would be linked to Europe's exchange rate mechanism in the fourth quarter.

Gold prices rose. The dollar continued to trade in well-established ranges of 1.68 West German marks to 1.7050 marks, and 152.50 yen to 155.50 yen, dealers said.

Andrew Elliott, international foreign exchange salesman for Chase Manhattan Bank in London, said he doesn't expect the dollar to break out of its current trading ranges until Friday's release of US trade figures.

Most of the market's interest was focused on a rush to buy sterling against most other currencies, which pushed the pound to its highest level on a trade-weighted basis since late September, although it reached only a four-month peak against the dollar.

The buying was prompted by a Financial Times report today that treasury officials have decided recently that Britain's underlying annual inflation rate will be low enough toward the end of the year to allow the pound to enter the exchange rate mechanism in the fourth quarter.

A spokesman for Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's office said the report was "pure speculation."

The pound's trade-weighted average jumped 0.8 to 90.3, its highest level since it stood at 91.4 in late September.

The British pound soared to \$1.7020 in London from \$1.6858 late Monday.

Other late dollar rates in Europe, compared with late Monday:

- 1.6920 West German marks, up from 1.6910
- 1.4367 Swiss francs, down from 1.4400
- 5.6950 French francs, up from 5.6900
- 1.9045 Dutch guilders, up from 1.9040
- 1.2423 Italian lire, down from 1.2427
- 1.1713 Canadian dollars, up from 1.1705

In Tokyo, where trading ends as Europe's business day begins, the dollar rose 0.30 yen to a closing of 154.40 yen. Later, in London, it was quoted at a higher rate of 154.44 yen.

Gold rose in London to a late bid price of \$356.25 a troy ounce, up from \$354.45 bid late yesterday.

In Zurich, the metal rose to a closing bid of \$355.65, up from \$355.00 late yesterday.

Earlier, in Hong Kong, gold rose \$2.07 to close at a bid \$357.82.

Saudi market active

NICOSIA, June 12. (Reuters) The Saudi riyal interbank deposit market again saw activity in short dates today, but showed less interest in the longer periods, dealers said.

Spot/next, dealing for Thursday/Monday, was quoted at 7-3/4 7-1/2 per cent, and one week at eight 7-3/4. One month dealt at 8-1/8 and was later being quoted at 8-3/16 8-1/16. Fixed dates above three months were quiet, they said, and rates were quoted unchanged from Monday.

The spot riyal was quoted at 3.7499/02 to the dollar.

Meanwhile, the Kuwaiti dinar interbank deposit market was active in short dates today, but saw less activity in longer periods, said dealers.

Short dates dealt throughout the morning, with overnight dealing at 8-5/8 and 8-1/2 per cent, tomorrow/next at 8-3/8 and 8-1/2, and spot/next at 8-1/2. The market in fixed dates was quieter, they said, although some interest was shown in three months, which dealt at 8-3/4. One and three months were quoted at 8-3/4 8-1/2 and six months and one year at 8-7/8 8-5/8.

The Central Bank fixed the dinar at 0.29267/77 to the dollar.

Dubai's Emirates receives Airbus

DUBAI, June 12. (AP) The fast-growing airline of the southern Gulf of Dubai, Emirates, took delivery today of the first of three Airbus A-300-600R aircraft.

The three-class extended-range Airbus was flown in from the Toulouse headquarters of the aircraft company by United Arab Emirates pilots.

"The fleet expansion is part of Emirates strategy aimed at maintaining

the rapid growth it has experienced since its formation," said Emirates airlines managing director Maurice Flanagan.

"We mean to be well prepared to meet the requirements of the future."

Emirates, which was launched in 1985, will use the new aircraft exclusively for its London service, one of 20 destinations it services.

The airline, which announced the pur-

chase of the three Airbus in February last year, will accept delivery of the second A-300-600R in September and the third next year.

In addition to those, Emirates has ordered a further three A-310S for delivery at the end of 1992, and is expected to own a fleet of 12 aircraft by early the following year.

The airline already has one A-300-

600R which serves the Indian subcontinent and other routes.

The new A-300-600R will carry a total of 223 passengers, 11 less than the number recommended by the manufacturers, Airbus Industrie, for extra comfort.

An interesting feature of the aircraft is that passengers in all three classes — first class, business and economy — can get full flight information on video screens

above them. All three classes also have "super bin" overhead lockers with a 55-pound (25 kilogramme) capacity.

The expansion of the Emirates network moves up on June 17 when it will launch its first Far East routes to Singapore via Colombo, to Manila and to Bangkok.

These new routes will be served twice weekly by A-310 aircraft.

Downstream system in Europe can handle 450,000 bpd

Kuwait raises its share of Italian market

NICOSIA, June 12. (UPI) Following the recent acquisition of the Mobil refinery and distribution network in Italy, Kuwait's integrated downstream system in Europe is now capable of handling about 450,000 barrels a day, an oil industry newsletter said today.

Nasser Al Salem, vice-president of Kuwait Petroleum International (KPI), the international subsidiary of the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) made the remarks in an interview with the Nicosia, Cyprus-based Middle East Economic Survey (MEES).

With its purchase of Mobil's 100,000 barrels a day refinery and 2,000 branded services stations throughout Italy, KPI has raised its share of the Italian market to 10-11 per cent compared with the previous 3.5-4 per cent.

Elsewhere in Europe, KPI's market shares are reckoned to be around 23-24 per cent in Denmark, 12 per cent in Sweden, 7 per cent in Belgium, 4.5 per cent in the Netherlands and 2.5 per cent in the United Kingdom.

KPI owns two other European refineries in Rotterdam, with a capacity of some 75,000 barrels a day, and in Denmark, with a capacity of 56,000

barrels a day. However, Al Salem noted, this European refining capacity of some 230,000 barrels a day will leave KPI's integrated downstream system in Europe short of refined products to the extent of over 200,000 barrels a day, which has to be made up from Kuwait and from processing deals with other refineries.

Before the acquisition of the Mobil refinery, KPI used to process crude in Italy to supply its network with around 60,000 barrels a day, but it now expects to use its own refinery.

Al Salem disclosed that KPI was looking at possible joint ventures in refining both in Europe and the Far East. However, he was not enthusiastic about joint ventures for marketing which he described as a "very difficult thing."

In Europe, KPI was looking for opportunities to improve its market share in the UK and enter new markets with "Q8" branded outlets and stations, Al Salem said.

Possibilities on that front were being pursued in France and Germany, to which products were already being supplied in bulk in Spain, Portugal and Austria, according to Al Salem.

KPI was also seeking to get into the East European market and plans were already under way for a joint venture with Hungary's national oil company with a view to upgrading its distribution network and, hopefully, putting "Q8" brand products into the outlets, he said.

KPI would also be looking into a possible refining joint venture in Hungary, Al Salem said.

In the Far East — which is also a priority target for KPC/KPI expansion — attention was being focused on Thailand as a possible launching pad for a regional presence embracing Japan and other markets in the area, he said.

Noting that Kuwait's initial intention was to look into the possibility of building 300 service stations in Thailand, Al Salem spoke of more far-reaching plans to build a refinery in the following terms:

"There is also a project to build a refinery both to supply the local market and for export. The exports would supplement our existing supplies to these regional markets and would also service any new networks we might develop — which could be in Japan, South Korea, Taiwan and even the Philippines."

Oil prices have hit bottom

SINGAPORE, June 12. (Reuters) Opec secretary-general Subroto said today that oil prices have hit bottom and ruled out emergency Opec talks to prevent any further falls.

"We feel \$14.25 is more or less the bottom already," he told an oil conference in Singapore by telephone from Opec headquarters in Vienna. "From now we will see a strengthening of prices instead of further weakening."

"We are not going to have a special meeting or an emergency meeting," he said.

Subroto said the Opec reference basket of seven crudes averaged \$14.24 a barrel in the first week of June.

The target price of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries for this basket is \$18.

At emergency talks in May, Opec ministers agreed to reduce production by just over 1.4 million barrels per day (bpd) to try to reverse the sharp drop in oil prices this year.

Khorafi off to Vienna

KUWAIT, June 12. (Kuna) Minister of Finance Jassem Mohammad Al Khorafi left here today for Vienna to attend the 11th session of ministerial council of the Opec Fund for International Development, due to be held tomorrow.

Al Khorafi, who is also the current chairman of ministerial council, told Kuna that the meeting will elect a new chairman and vice-chairman for the council. Kuwait is the current chairman and Ecuador is the vice-chairman.

He added that the meeting will also discuss the 1989 financial report. Al Khorafi said there were some 28 loans worth \$119 million and about \$4 million as grants offered by the fund.

Portugal still making up its mind on exchange rate mechanism

LISBON, June 12. (Reuters) Portugal, fearful of missing the boat of European Economic Community integration, cannot make up its mind when to join the bloc's Exchange Rate Mechanism (ERM).

The ERM, part of the European Monetary System, is seen as a forerunner to full monetary union of the 12 EEC states.

Some economists say it would be unworkable to tie the escudo to the nine currencies in the ERM while Portugal's inflation rate — now at 13 per cent — is more than twice the EEC average.

Apart from Portugal, only Britain and Greece have not yet joined the ERM, which sets member currencies at a fixed rate against the European currency unit and allows them to fluctuate within a band of 2.25 per cent on either side of it.

In the case of Spain, which joined only last year, the peseta has a six per cent fluctuation band.

A spokesman for British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher dismissed as "pure speculation" a press report today that Britain would enter the ERM later this year.

He said Britain would join when its inflation rate was closer to the community average and when the EEC's financial market liberalisation was more advanced.

Bankers say Portugal would be under strong pressure to follow suit immediately once Britain joined.

For Portugal, a target date of 1992 is the most favoured for joining the ERM. But supporters of earlier entry argue

that the continuing strong flow of foreign investment — \$2.4 billion in 1989 — outweighs the inflation factor. ERM membership would also be a strong psychological weapon against inflation, they say.

Despite the policy of monthly 0.25 per cent devaluations against a basket of currencies, the escudo has been shadowing the ERM wider six per cent band for the past two to three years.

"It's been hovering around parity, in effect it has been unofficially in the ERM without any of the safeguards," a political analyst said.

The nine states in the ERM are happy to let Portugal make up its own mind, EEC officials say.

But political pressure is building up at home. The opposition socialists, from

President Mario Soares down, are pressing for entry as soon as possible.

Analysts say the government too is divided. Bank of Portugal Governor Jose Tavares Moreira backs 1992, while Prime Minister Anibal Cavaco Silva, though an economist by profession, would like to move faster.

"Cavaco Silva wants to go in as soon as he can because Portugal is thoroughly integrationist and Mario Soares is in danger of pinching the political high ground," one said.

Portugal, though on some measures no longer the EEC's poorest state, is intensely conscious of its remote economic and physical position in the community.

All mainstream politicians are determined that their nation of 10 million

people must not be left behind in the move towards economic and monetary union in the bloc.

At the same time the ruling Social Democrats have to face an election in late 1991 and may want to avoid anything that would risk raising unemployment, limiting their spending power or cutting growth, currently about five per cent.

Bankers were divided about the likely date of entry. One said 1992 was "a good target." Another said: "I think it will happen sooner than people think. Before the elections at least."

Portugal would be joining the six per cent band of the ERM. Another argument for early entry is that if it does not move quickly, the broad band might be abolished altogether.



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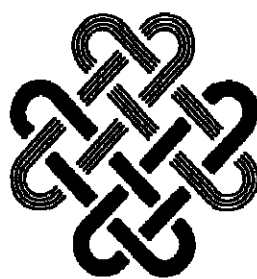
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British Steel announces jump in profits

LONDON, June 12, (Reuters): British Steel PLC today reported a 24 per cent jump in pre-tax profit for the last financial year to £733 million (\$1.23 billion).

But the company said prices for steel in Europe weakened in the last quarter of the year to March 31 while demand for steel in Britain peaked at the same time.

"The effects of the easing of demand and increasing costs resulted in profits in the second half of the year falling below the very strong level achieved in the first half," said a company statement.

Though the profit outstripped analysts' forecasts, word of the fall in demand brought an initial drop of two pence (three cents) in British Steel shares to 146.50 pence (\$2.46).

Company chairman Sir Robert Scholey said British Steel, which was privatised by the Conservative government in late 1988, would seek growth through a mixture of cost-saving capital investment and acquisitions.

British Steel has aroused a political furore by announcing that it plans to close its hot-strip mill at Ravenscroft in Scotland. But the company said: "Such measures are essential to ensure the company's long-term competitiveness."

Group turnover rose four per cent in the year to £5.11 billion (\$8.58 billion). Sales in Britain rose only slightly to £3.25 billion (\$5.46 billion) but in the European Economic Community they leapt 21 per cent to £991 million (\$1.66 billion).

Nahas appointed general manager

ANDRE NAHAS has been appointed general manager of Kodak (Middle East) Inc with responsibility for the Middle East marketing and distribution of Kodak's photographic, commercial and medical as well as supplying affiliated operations in India, Egypt and Kenya.

Nahas takes over from William Quinn who has been appointed general manager of Kodak Taiwan Limited, based in Taipei, Taiwan.

Now based in Dubai, Nahas joined Kodak in 1974 after graduating from the American University of Beirut in 1970.

Since then he has held a variety of positions with Kodak throughout the Middle East area and was most recently director of International Business Analysis in the Health Sciences Division based at Eastman Kodak's headquarters in Rochester, USA.

New gas find

DHAHRAN, June 12, (AP): The state-owned oil company Saudi Aramco has discovered a new gas field at Hilwah, 85 miles (137 km) south of the capital Riyadh. Oil Minister Hisham Nazer announced today.

The find is also located 45 kms (28 miles) north of Hawtat well No. 1 where oil was struck last June, he said.

The gas-bearing zone was at a depth of 6,257 feet (1,907 metres) and was struck on May 30. A well test conducted by the company on June 1 showed that the gas flowed at an average rate of 14.4 million cubic feet (1.3 million cubic metres) per day and condensate at a rate of 429 barrels per day, Nazer said.

Since last year, Saudi Arabia has enhanced its oil and gas exploration activities in the central area around Riyadh.

With the new exploration activities, the country has reported a big increase in its oil and gas reserves, which according to the company's annual report for 1989 stood respectively at 257,504 billion barrels and 180,355 billion standard cubic feet.

Saudi Arabia is now turning toward tapping mineral resources, according to the minister. He said King Fahd would like all efforts be made to tap the kingdom's mineral resources and seek foreign technology for the purpose through international bids.

Hong Kong girlie bars, factories make way for offices

HONG KONG, June 12, (Reuters): The girlie bars of Hong Kong's Wanchai district that teemed with US servicemen during the Vietnam war are rapidly making way for shiny high-rise office buildings.

The British colony's three year economic boom has led to a severe shortage of office space and new blocks are spreading from the bustling central business area to tower over the tattoo parlours and cheap restaurants of Wanchai and the grimy industrial districts beyond.

"Average rents shot up by 70 to 75 per cent in the year to 1989," said Peter Churchouse, a vice-president of

Morgan Stanley in Hong Kong.

Prices in central's Exchange Square, three gleaming towers that house leading international names in banking and finance, have risen from about 17 Hong Kong dollars (\$2) a square foot (0.09 square metres) when the towers first opened in 1985 to 80 HK dollars (\$10) last year.

"A lot of people found these prices just too much and decided to move elsewhere," Churchouse said.

But a surge in demand last year cut available office floor space to just three per cent of the more than 50 million square feet (4.6 million square metres) total, property agent Jones Lang

Wootton said in a report.

Michael Laven, a director of property agent First Pacific Davies, says Hong Kong's economic boom and a structural shift from manufacturing to services have put pressure on office space.

"A lot of companies here expanded rapidly in terms of people but they couldn't expand in terms of space."

He said the average space per employee fell from 7.9 square feet (0.73 square metres) in 1986 to 6.5 square feet (0.6 square metres) in 1989.

"This is not ideal. By world standards, 6.5 square feet is very, very tight."

Companies responded by taking larger premises wherever they could, Laven said.

Sparkling new offices in Wanchai, just to the east of central, figured high on the list of preferences. A new convention and exhibition centre and two top-class hotels, all overlooking scenic Hong Kong harbour, cast an upmarket sheen on the run-down red light district.

But the rents in Wanchai are fast catching up with those in central and businesses are eyeing sites even further afield, Jones Lang Wootton says.

Tai Koo Shing, a former dockyard,

borders a grim, noisy factory district. It was built up out of a minerals quarry and is now a sprawl of factories, run-down offices and tiny shops and a target for developers, analysts say.

The property arm of trading giant Swire Pacific is building two 22-storey office towers adjoining a shopping complex already open for business in Tai Koo Shing.

The offices, a 20-minute subway ride from central, are scheduled for completion by mid-1992. More than a quarter of the space has already been rented at an undisclosed price.

Businesses are willing to go even further than Tai Koo Shing. Some 600,000 square feet (56,000 square metres) of offices in Cheung Sha Wan, squeezed between gritty industrial districts on the Kowloon peninsula, were fully rented when they opened in 1989.

In 1993, when more than seven million square feet (650,000 square metres) of office space have come on-stream, supply may outstrip demand for the first time since 1986.

Rents may fall a bit but they will not crash, Laven said. "If businesses take up more than five million square feet (460,000 square metres), we won't see any movement in rents at all."

Talks under way

Iran to supply gas to Europe and Asia

ZURICH, June 12, (Kuna): Iran is negotiating large-scale contracts to supply natural gas to Europe and Asia, the International Herald Tribune (IHT) reported today.

In an interview to the daily from Singapore, the Iranian Petroleum Minister, Gholamreza Azadeh said talks were under way with a number of countries, including West Germany, Italy, France, Romania, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia, Japan and South Korea.

The Iranian petroleum minister was attending an international oil conference, which continues today, and which is sponsored by the IHT.

Azadeh said that Iran would use its huge reserves of natural

gas to generate economic growth and become "one of the world's major gas exporters."

He added that Iran and a group of European nations, which he declined to name, were studying the feasibility and relative costs of exporting Iranian gas to Europe by pipeline through Turkey or the Soviet Union, or by ship in the form of liquefied natural gas.

The minister noted that although negotiations with some European companies and governments were "close to a conclusion," it had been agreed that details would not be released until they had been made final.

According to the IHT, Western and Japanese officials confirmed that talks had opened between a number of European

countries and Iran, and between Japan and Iran, on supply of natural gas. But they said that there was still a long way to go before any contracts were signed.

Azadeh, a former deputy prime minister and deputy foreign minister of Iran, also told the IHT that foreign investments in the Iranian oil and gas sector would be welcome.

The Iranian petroleum minister noted that with 17 trillion cubic metres of proven reserves, Iran had 15 per cent of the world supplies of natural gas.

Fereidun Fesharaki, leader of the energy programme at the East-West Centre in Hawaii, said that the Iran-Europe gas supply project would become commercially feasible over the next four

or five years.

"The alternative for Europe will be more expensive Russian gas or extremely costly Norwegian gas," he said.

Fesharaki pointed out that the key to the project was whether Tehran could persuade the consortium of European buyers and investors in the pipeline that "Iran will really be a reliable partner and gas supplier."

He estimated that it would cost at least \$5 billion to build a gas pipeline from Iran across Turkey into Europe.

Iran's petroleum minister said that a cheaper but less large scale proposal, which had been discussed with Moscow, would be to use an existing pipeline supplying Iranian gas to the southern region of the Soviet Union.

Trade talks Japan raps US actions

TOKYO, June 12, (UPI): Granting by US officials could hinder trade negotiations with Japan just as they enter the critical phase, a senior Foreign Ministry official said today.

"I think we should not hear too much (being said publicly) about these kind of talks when both sides are engaged seriously (on) the points of disagreement," chief Foreign Ministry spokesman Taro Watanabe said at a regular news conference.

New, last-minute demands from the Americans are "a source of embarrassment," Watanabe remarked.

The United States and Japan are struggling to agree on broad economic reforms to cut the nearly \$30 billion annual US trade deficit with Japan.

Watanabe declined to identify the demands, but added "some comments made by the American government were an additional source of embarrassment."

Watanabe implied that the US tactics might disrupt attempts to gain consensus among various Japanese factions.

Heated discussions are under way between ministries to resolve their differing positions, he said.

The talks, dubbed the structural impediments initiative, are intended to eliminate obstacles to balanced trade between the two nations.

A final report is to be hammered out during a meeting of the two nations in Tokyo June 25 and 26. Failure to do so would jeopardize leaders of advanced nations in mid-July.

In recent weeks, US officials have grumbled that Japan was backsliding on interim agreements reached in April on such things as toughening enforcement of Japanese anti-trust law.

Japanese officials are reportedly annoyed that the United States has renewed demands that Japan peg its public works spending to a percentage of its gross national product.

IPE chief to discuss areas of co-operation

Dubai futures ties under review

SINGAPORE, June 12, (Reuters): The London-based International Petroleum Exchange's (IPE) chief executive, Peter Wildblood, is meeting with officials of Singapore International Monetary Exchange (Simex) to discuss areas of co-operation between the two exchanges in trading Dubai crude futures.

The contract is scheduled for launch on Simex on June 21 and on IPE in the latter part of July.

Simex president Ang Swee Tian said Simex and IPE agree "it is good to have a standardised Dubai crude futures contract with similar terms, trading in our own areas."

"One area being explored in talks with IPE is whether our Dubai contracts can expire at the same time on the same day, with a single final settlement price," Ang told Reuters.

He described as "premature" speculation that both exchanges were planning to have a mutual offset system for trading Dubai futures.

As long as the Dubai contract has standardised terms on expiry and settlement, co-operation between IPE and Simex could take the form of allowing traders to have their positions opened on one exchange and squared on the other without any basis risk (price difference), Ang said.

Simex will start off with IPE as the first contract month while IPE will launch October as the first contract month.

"If there is to be collaboration, the scheme would be implemented with October as the first contract month," an industry source said.

Industry sources said collaboration would be mutually beneficial to Simex and IPE as the ability to hedge positions on either exchange would enlarge

the pool of traders.

"Co-operation will be positive," Tan Hup Thye, managing director of Commission House Refco (Singapore) Pte Ltd, said.

"It would definitely increase liquidity and depth of the market, attracting participation from various sectors," Tan said.

"Dubai futures promises to be an alternative contract for those in the US, especially its west coast, with exposure in the Far East oil market. Most oil is now priced off West Texas Intermediate, and it would be good to have another benchmark."

Some form of Simex-IPE collaboration would be desirable as traders would be able to take advantage of price movements in different time zones, Yeong Wai Cheong, managing director of Sassoon Financial Futures Pte Ltd, said.

"If there is collaboration, it would open up an 18-hour trading of Dubai," Yeong said.

Simex since 1984 has had an agreement with the Chicago Mercantile Exchange (CME) for exclusive bilateral links on trading financial futures.

Simex now expects to re-start talks with the CME for an after-hours electronic trading system which would render the mutual offset link redundant and allow Simex to consider fresh links with other exchanges, the sources said.

"Eventually, we should work towards a mutual offset system between Simex and IPE on energy futures," Refco's Tan said.

"If Simex and CME can iron out details on the exclusive agreement on financial futures, Simex can then consider whether it wants to have a mutual offset agreement with other exchanges on other types of futures contracts," Tan added.

EEC sees E. Europe seeking \$12b in aid

BRUSSELS, Belgium, June 12, (AP): External relations commissioner Frans Andriessen said Monday East European nations will seek \$12 billion in short to medium term financial aid from the West.

He suggested donor nations create a "multipurpose restructuring facility" to encourage economic reforms in Eastern Europe to "enhance the creditworthiness of beneficiary countries (and) act as a deterrent against speculation, encourage private investment and help stabilize exchange rates."

Andriessen said a quota system for subscriptions could be developed based on "acceptable criteria for burden-sharing" and arrangements for "managing the facility would be worked out in close co-operation with the IMF and World Bank."

The EEC commission is co-ordinating an aid programme for Poland and Hungary through which 24 donor nations have pledged \$13 billion in financial and other aid. Next month, the donor nations

will likely extend the aid package to Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, East Germany, Romania and Yugoslavia.

Initial contracts with these countries "suggest" they will request standby credits and loans similar to those for Poland and Hungary, Andriessen said.

Hungary benefits from a five-year, \$1 billion loan to help it restructure its economy and Poland has access to a \$1 billion "stabilisation fund."

Czechoslovakia is looking for a large standby facility, while Yugoslavia and Bulgaria are seeking different forms of financial support, Andriessen said.

"Taken together these and other likely requests will probably total at least 10 billion European currency units (\$12.1 billion) in the short and medium term," he said in a speech in Berlin. A text of his address to a financial conference was released by the EEC office here.

Plan to lift textile curbs Rich nations come under increasing pressure

GENEVA, June 12, (Reuters): Third World textile producers today proposed the phasing out of all curbs on their exports in six years to bring the multi-billion dollar sector fully under the free trade rules of Gatt, the world trade watchdog.

The 22-nation International Textiles and Clothing Bureau (ITC) circulated a 12-page plan to members of the textiles negotiating group at the Uruguay round of world trade talks.

It proposes scrapping the current multi-fibre arrangement (MFA), which governs about half the world's trade in textiles and clothing, when it expires on July 31 next year.

This 51-nation accord allows industrialised countries to protect their domestic textile industries through individual agreements limiting foreign imports.

Developing countries still use textiles as the first rung on the ladder to industrialisation, following in the footsteps of Britain's pioneering industrial revolution last century.

Developed countries, which have tried to keep exports of cheap cloth and clothing from killing their own competitive textile industries, are coming under increasing pressure to loosen up as the world trade talks near their end.

Under the ITCB scheme, those import curbs would be lifted in four stages from August 1, 1991 until their total elimination by the end of 1997. During this period, import quotas would be enlarged by fixed annual percentages.

The Third World exporters completed their draft at a meeting in Hong Kong last month for submission to a three-day session in Geneva this week of the Uruguay round textiles group.

ITCB members are Argentina, Bangladesh, Brazil, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Egypt, El Salvador, Hong

Kong, India, Indonesia, Jamaica, Macao, Maldives, Mexico, Pakistan, Peru, South Korea, Sri Lanka, Turkey, Uruguay and Yugoslavia.

Bringing trade in textiles and clothing fully under the rules of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) is a major objective of the four-year Uruguay round of talks, which cover 14 other sectors of international commerce and are due to conclude next December.

The United States, the world's largest importer, and Canada have submitted separate proposals that would substitute quota schemes, setting limits for individual categories of products, while the textile sector was integrated progressively into GATT.

But the Third World exporters and the 12-nation European Economic Community have rejected both plans, saying they would introduce more restrictions.

The EEC has said it favours phasing out current restrictions with a parallel strengthening of GATT rules and disciplines to open up markets and create fair competitive conditions.

An EEC official told reporters at a briefing in Brussels on Monday that an EEC paper to be presented at Tuesday's textile group meeting would set out ideas for phasing out barriers.

The official said the community was prepared to bring some products under GATT rules "right from the beginning."

The EEC, the world's biggest textile trader, wants signatories of the final GATT plan to commit themselves to liberalising trade by setting and meeting tougher targets.

But it wants better access to Third World markets for its members and safeguards against sudden surges of exports from Third World producers, the official said.

Asia's energy needs growing

SINGAPORE, June 12, (AP): Prospering Asia's oil needs will grow by 2.2 million barrels a day in five years, an oil executive said yesterday.

Japan, southeast Asia and south Asia each would account for 400,000 barrels daily, China 500,000 barrels and South Korea and Taiwan together 500,000 barrels, said Bert Lottering, director of supplies and trading for Shell Eastern Petroleum Pte Ltd.

This would bring Asia's daily total oil needs to 15 million barrels, he added.

"This bullish outlook reflects the expectation of a continual strong performance of the regional economy and resulting oil demand," Lottering said at the oil and money Asia and the Pacific conference.

In line with demand growth, more and more Asia Pacific countries are setting up new refineries or expanding old ones, he said. These plans will add 2.1 million barrels daily of new refining capacity in this region by 1995, said Lottering.

He said a glut in capacity may not be possible as there may be delays in adding refining capacity due to lack of

funds or environmental concerns.

He also warned that the expected regional demand may not materialise due to political unrest in China. Politics and social issues may affect South Korea's economy, and reduction in oil subsidies to improve energy efficiency may cause a decline in demand, he added.

But, he said, "oil refining at present is a profitable business in the Asia-Pacific region and there is optimism about demand."

In the next 10 years, Asia-Pacific countries' economic growth is expected to average 5 per cent a year, significantly higher than in the rest of the world, said Hussein A. Linjawi, president and chief executive officer of Saudi Arabian Marketing and Refining Co.

"Oil demand in the region will continue to set the pace for the rest of the world with average annual growth of 3 per cent," he said.

Countries such as South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand, the Philippines, India and Pakistan probably will show continued demand growth above the regional average, he added.

Lowest level in six years

US foreign trade deficit shrinks

WASHINGTON, June 12, (AP): The deficit in the broadest measure of US foreign trade shrank to \$22.94 billion from January through March, the lowest quarterly imbalance in six years, the government reported today.

The Commerce Department said America's current account trade deficit narrowed by 14 per cent in the first three months of the year, compared to a \$26.69 billion deficit in the final three months of 1989.

The improvement was credited to a record level of sales of American products overseas, which helped to reduce the merchandise trade deficit.

US earnings on overseas investments and payments by foreigners for services such as travel and tourism also played a part in reducing the current account imbalance.

The first-quarter deficit was the smallest quarterly trade gap since a \$20.5 billion deficit in the first quarter of 1984.

The current account, also known as the balance of payments, is the most closely watched trade statistic because it measures not only trade in merchandise but also trade in

services and investments.

Even with the first quarter improvement, the United States is beginning the new decade in a far different position than it began the 1980s.

Ten years ago, America was the largest creditor nation. It ran surpluses in its current account as the earnings on overseas investments were enough to offset perennial deficits in merchandise trade.

But as Americans handed over billions of dollars to foreigners in payments for imported cars and televisions, the investment cushion eroded. It disappeared altogether in 1985, when the United States became a net debtor for the first time in 71 years.

That means foreigners now own more in US assets than Americans own overseas, a development that has led some to say the United States is losing control over its economic destiny.

Today's report indicates America's debtor position has now risen to around \$670 billion, although the government's official account of the gap between US holdings and foreign

investments will not be made until later this month.

The first quarter current account performance showed that the trade gap was running at an annual rate of \$92 billion at the beginning of the year. That would compare to a total current account deficit of \$110.02 billion in 1989.

Before the year began, many economists were pessimistically forecasting that the trade deficit would remain stuck above \$100 billion for the seventh consecutive year, fearing that foreign demand for US exports would cool in 1990 while America's import bill would swell because of increased dependence on foreign oil.

However, the actual performance so far has been a pleasant surprise, prompting some analysts to revise their forecasts to show a current account deficit below \$100 billion.

For the first three months of the year, the merchandise deficit narrowed by 9.2 per cent to \$26.37 billion as an all-time high in US export sales was enough to offset the highest volume of oil imports in more than 12 years.

WORLD STOCK ROUNDUP

TOKYO, June 12, (Reuters): Stocks closed lower almost across the board on a weakened yen and a dearth of incentives. Futures-related and index-linked selling, mostly by foreign brokers and domestic investors, was quiet ahead of forthcoming economic reports. At 1543 GMT the Dow Industrial index was off more than four points at 2,887.87.

Japanese officials are reportedly annoyed that the United States has renewed demands that Japan peg its public works spending to a percentage of its gross national product.

SYDNEY: Australia's share market ended a touch weaker when an afternoon drop on the Tokyo Exchange offset a firmer morning session due to a rise in News Corp stock. The All Ordinaries index finished 2.4 points lower at 1,501.5.

NEW YORK: Wall street shares turned mixed by late morning, as blue chips dipped into the minus column. Trading was quiet ahead of forthcoming economic reports. At 1543 GMT the Dow Industrial index was off more than four points at 2,887.87.

BOMBAY: Share prices fell under selling pressure from investors from northern India. The Bombay Stock Exchange index fell 7.42 points to 787.36.

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Embroidery	Advertising	City & Guilds Radio Amateurs
Religious Studies	Public Relations	City & Guilds Radio Amateurs
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Adult Skills - Working with Numbers	Executive Assistant	City & Guilds Radio Amateurs
	Typing	City & Guilds Radio Amateurs
	Technical	City & Guilds Radio Amateurs
	Motorcycle Maintenance	City & Guild

Indian Video Roundup

Molecules of reality on canvas of life

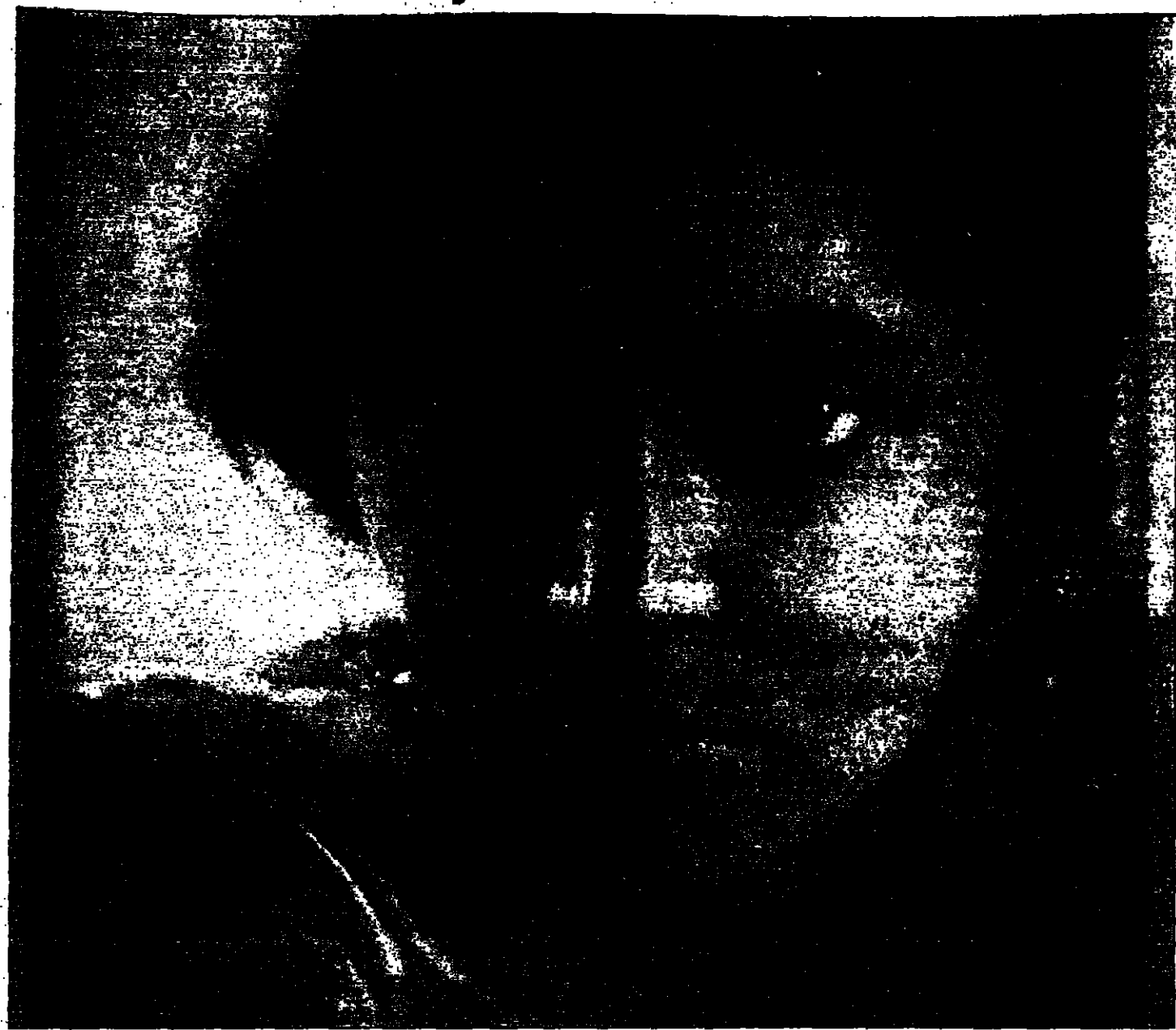


Suresh Oberoi

By Fathima Ahmed
Arab Times staff

BASU CHATTERJEE'S film themes have often been the subject of much controversy. In the early 1980s, when socially committed films were much in vogue, he gave us light-hearted cinema — fresh and young, taken from a slice of life, capturing the "joys of living". Notable among them were *Choti Si Baat*, the story of a timid young man who scurries to an expert to take a crash course in courtship (Amol Palekar, Vidya Sinha); *Rajinikanth*, a romance in which protagonist Deepa chooses between a suave ad-man and a cheeky, absent-minded person (Vidya Sinha, Amol Palekar); *Safed Jhoor*, a comedy focussing on the troubles of a newly married man who can't get leave from his tough boss (Ashok Kumar, Vinod Mehra, Mithu Mukherjee); and *Dillagi*, the story of a handsome lecturer who works in a women's college. His penchant for erotic Sanskrit poetry stirs up his students, including a stern chemistry professor (Dharmendra, Hema Malini).

Chatterjee's talent covers a wide canvas. When he reverted to serious films, he examined social disparities and the ugliness of outmoded traditions. The film-maker, best known for speed and small budget films, has made an art of the "dailiness of life." And finds beauty in the most mundane. At the same time, he examines the depth of emotions — actions and reactions — and pulls our heartstrings with his terribly familiar human experiences.



Deepthi Naval

His latest movie *Panchavati* finely etches molecules of reality on the canvas of daily life. And like most Basu Chatterjee films, it is bound to create a furor, not so much for technique but for content. Moralists and traditionalists amongst us may not appreciate the truly liberated woman — Sadhavi — sculpted by Basu Chatterjee.

To avoid a head-on collision with critics, Chatterjee skirts the issue by revolving his film around the Nepalese girl, Sadhavi, a sensitive middle-class artist capturing the beauty of nature on her prolific canvases.

The issue here is sensitivity, companionship and the more brutal question of physical relationships. Casually, but forcibly, Chatterjee batters the concept of conjugal rights; with

equal ease he resurrects true passion. In doing so, he projects the simple truth from a woman's point of view: the husband may be lord, but he cannot defile the sanctity of a woman's body. Chatterjee equates libido with an empty stomach. Hunger can be fed, lust satisfied, love fulfilled. *Panchavati* is a deeply engrossing drama.

In one sequence, Sadhavi tells her de-sensitized husband Yatin (Akbar Khan): "If only you could touch my mind as you touch my body." The camera captures the vacant look on Yatin's face. He believes he is the "rightful owner" of the flesh and blood property, Sadhavi, who craves respect. And the gentlemanly Vikram wins her heart... and it is not a moment of weakness. It is a time for fulfilling

a long overdue desire.

Basu also provokes a chain of thought by contrasting the complacent indifference of one woman, Neera, with the active individuality of another, Sadhavi. He also deals with incompatibility through the lives of two couples: Vikram-Neera, tied by a bond of convenience; Yatin-Sadhavi — brought together through holy matrimony only to suffer unholy experiences. When Yatin and Sadhavi's marital squabbles come to light, Neera tells Yatin: "At least they quarrel, you didn't do that either." This statement focusses on the emptiness that consumes both Neera and Yatin yet they can't break superficial social barriers.

A word of caution: no formulas in this Hindi film, no need-

less songs, dances, fights and rape sequences. Tension simmers, nature's lyrics abound and the beauty lies in the overall presentation.

Some viewers may be put off by the slow pace at the start of the movie but this is a minor irritant that is soon put right as Sadhavi's story progresses. One is also dissatisfied with the abrupt ending... something left unsaid, something incomplete. Perhaps, when one is capturing a slice of life, one is bound to leave many questions unanswered.

Deepthi Naval turns in a highly credible performance as Sadhavi. Suresh Oberoi as Vikram and Akbar Khan as Yatin are convincing.

The above film is by courtesy of Athari Video, Main St, Farwaniya.

TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

KTV 1

- 9.00 Holy Quran
- 9.15 Nabia Wa Saleh: cartoon serial
- 9.40 Ifah Ya Simsim
- 10.10 Good Morning
- 10.30 Ahlam Al Zahira: Arabic serial; part 5, featuring Majdi Wahba, Karima Mukhtar, Madiha Hamdi, Ibrahim Al Shami
- 11.15 News Summary
- 12.00 Al Raseef Al Barad: Arabic serial, part 4; featuring Mahmood Saeed, Shafiqah Al Tall, Fuad Al Shomili
- 1.00 News Summary
- 1.05 World News via Satellite
- 1.20 Songs
- 1.30 Sanavar: cartoons serial
- 2.15 Ailab Bu Jassoum: Kuwaiti serial; ep. 5; featuring Hussain Qattan, Abdul Wahab Dosari, Moosa Al Hazim
- 3.00 Hadith Deen: Hadith wa Imaan. Religious programme.
- 3.35 English language serial

- 4.30 Sports programme
- 5.30 Sally: cartoon serial
- 6.30 Tomorrow's World
- 7.30 Variety
- 8.15 Folklore
- 9.00 News in Arabic
- 9.45 Al Rajul Wal Qataar: Arabic serial
- 10.35 Variety
- 11.00 Soorah Ijtimaiah: "Nukhtah Bibahr". Starring: Omar Hajjo, Bishar Ismael, Huda Al Rakabi, Faris Al Helu.
- 12.05 News Summary
- 12.10 World News via Satellite
- 12.30 Holy Quran/Closedown

KTV 2

- 6.00 Holy Quran
- 6.10 Mickey & Donald

Sports Channel
Channel 6/45

- 5.00 Opening
- 5.10 Sports review
- 6.00 World Cup: Spain vs Uruguay (live)
- 10.00 World Cup: USSR vs Argentina (live)

- 6.30 Hotshotz: mystery-adventure series featuring a miniature car racing team, an enterprising children's gang — Kisty, Micro, Steve and Michelle — a kidnapped professor and a counterfeiting ring.
- 7.00 Beyond 2000: this documentary examines the latest in science and technology.
- 8.00 News in English
- 8.40 The Science Edition: focus on scientific advances and their applications.
- 9.00 Booker: "The Red..." A contract killer takes advantage of Booker to reach his victim. Starring: Richard Grieco.
- 10.00 Cine Club: presented by Farouq Abdul Aziz (The film has not been announced.)
- 12.00 News in Brief
- 12.10 Magazine D'Actualite/Closedown

Please note that Kuwaiti television programmes and timings are liable to change without notice.



● To celebrate the inauguration of a new scheduled flight between Kuwait and Warsaw a reception for travel agents and VIPs was held at the Kuwait International Hotel by Al Sarraf Travel Agency, the local agent for Polish Airlines. Seen in the picture is Adnan Saad, P.R. Manager of the hotel with guests, hosts and VIPs.

CINEMA TODAY

- Al Andalus**
Hanafi Al Abaha (Arabic)
Starring: Adel Imam, Huda Ramzi, Farouk Fishawi
- Al Sahliya**
Al Raqaash Wal Siyaseen (Arabic)
Starring: Nabila Obaid, Salah Qabil
- Al Hamra**
Dead Pool
Starring: Clint Eastwood
- Drive-In**
Al Raqaash Wal Siyaseen (Arabic)
- Fahadhel Open-Air**
Mere Jeevan Saathi (Hindi)

- Al Firdous**
Sheeshay Ka Ghar (Hindi)
Starring: Raj Babbar, Padmini Kolhapure
- Al Fahadhel**
Al Maulood (Arabic)
- Al Jahra**
Alice
- Granada**
Al Khadimah (Arabic)
- Salaikhath**
Fleisch
- Al Jeeb**
Cyclone
- Ahmadi Drive-In**
Al Nimr Wal Unsa (Arabic)

PRAYERS

- | | |
|--------------|---------|
| Fajr | 3.13 am |
| Dhuhr Prayer | 11.48 |
| Asr | 3.22 pm |
| Maghreb | 6.48 |
| Isha | 8.20 |

■ All entries for the What's On column can be sent by telex (22332) to Events Section or hand delivered daily, except Thursdays, from 12 noon to 4 pm, at the Arab Times Office in Shuwaikh. Photographs will also be considered for publication. Phoned-in entries will not be accepted.



Philippine independence celebrated

The Filipino community in Kuwait on Monday celebrated the 92nd anniversary of Philippine independence. In the morning, a flag hoisting ceremony was held at the embassy premises in Jabriya. A large number of Filipinos turned out to witness the ceremony, conducted by Ambassador Maurya Mohammad Tamano. In the evening, the ambassador hosted a reception at the International Hotel. Diplomats, Kuwaiti officials and members of the Filipino community attended.

Ambassador Tamano (above) with Mrs Tamano, and consul-general and others pictured at the flag-hoisting ceremony. Above right and below: some of the Filipinos who attended the ceremony.



WHAT'S ON

Social

Irish reception
June 16: Saturday, SAS Hotel, 6-8 pm. All Irish nationals are invited to a reception which will be hosted in honour of the Irish foreign minister and Irish ambassador. They will be visiting Kuwait later this month. For details contact Marwan Salamah — 2402628/9; or Ms V. Al Mutawa — 5621701/5622701.

Sri Lankan meeting
June 14: The Sri Lankan embassy has arranged a meeting for Sri Lankans to hold talks with Labour Minister G.M. Premachandra and his accompanying delegation will be visiting Kuwait on June 13 and 14. All Sri Lankans who wish to meet the dignitaries are requested to come to the Sri Lankan embassy on Thursday, June 14, morning.

AUCB
June 15: 8 pm Hyatt Regency, Crystal Hall. Former students of American University in Cairo will hold annual gathering. The organising committee comprises Dr Lila Al Hajen, Nada Kolaibo, Maha Khaled, Ulfat Sharid, Tarq and Aymam Gargis. The proceeds will go toward charities in Kuwait and for the Palestinian children fund in Lebanon.

Fankaar
June 15: Fankar Arts Group

presents variety show at Indian Embassy Hall. The evening has been organised in honour of Indian film director Moeen Amjad. Highlights include music by Edwin Dass Orchestra and Hindi skit by Anif Kazi.

Festival on ice
June 18-24: Ice Capades present Festival on Ice at the Ice Skating Rink. Two shows daily. Afternoon show features Barbie Doll. The evening show features figure skating champions and exhibition show. Twenty world class skaters promise family entertainment. For reservations Tel. 2530000/2533000

Overseas students party
June 27: 6 pm. British Council will hold a reception for all students who will be studying in the UK this autumn. The party will be for all students who have been offered a place at any university, polytechnic or college in Britain.

A set of briefing notes will be given to each student. Refreshments will be served. Students going to the UK are asked to call in to collect free admission cards from Kate or Lix in the Education Office, British Council, 2 Al Arabi St., Mansouriya.

Pakistan Arts Circle membership campaign

June 30: The initial membership campaign of the Pakistan Arts Circle (veterans) will end on June 30 to prepare for elections of a new executive com-

mittee. All Pakistanis are invited to join the PAC by completing the membership form. PAC membership is open to any Pakistani wishing to join the group at any time. For details call: 5716588; 5631815; 4843578; 2414570.

D'Aussies Association celebrates 10th anniversary
Oct 4: Holy mass at 6:30 pm at the Holy Family Cathedral, Kuwait City, followed by a social at 8:30 pm at the Messilah Beach Hotel. For more details please contact Tel. No. 2469811/12 or 3717346 after 5:30 pm.

Hotels

At the Meridian
MANGO Festival: until June 14. At Fingon and Al Wahda. La Brasserie Restaurant. Thai Corner: Saturday night. Cowboy Night: Every Sunday, with live country music. Chinese Corner: Monday night feature. Greek Taverna: Mediterranean magic with boussouki music.

Indonesian corner: on Wednesdays; food prepared in front of you.

Jazz Night: New Orleans atmosphere on Thursday night.

Friday: Oriental luncheon buffet; family day. Versailles: Business lunch; and a la carte dinner.

At Ramada Al Salam
Al Bender Coffee Shop: Arabic and Continental buffets, lunch and dinner; also a la carte; open 6 am to midnight.

Al Mawardi Open-Air Cafe: open from 6 pm to midnight. **Al Gandoul Grill Garden**: open after 6 pm; grilled food. Friday brunch: 12 noon to 3 pm, ship discovery tour, entertainment for children and cartoon-strip characters.

At the Messilah Beach
Al Mubarakiah: open around the clock; seafood promotion on Wednesdays, 7 pm; Fridays — Middle Eastern cuisine.

Al Jawharah: Thursday special — special menu; music by Rainbow Band.

Al Berdounah: BBQ on Thursday in beach-garden restaurant; Lebanese food.

At the Holiday Inn
Al Ahmadi Coffee Shop: breakfast, lunch and dinner buffets — Continental and Oriental cuisine.

Al Andalus Supper Club: Arabic Nite, every Thursday; Arabic band entertains guests.

Friday Family Lunch: Disney fantasy on Fridays.

At the Plaza:
Al Dallah Coffee Shop: international cuisine; open buffet plus menu.
Loluwah Corner: snacks and refreshing summer drinks.
Marco Polo: Italian ambience and cuisine, particularly pasta.

Music

Murchana
June 15: Murchana, a musical evening featuring Bengali, Hindi and semi-classical songs at Meridian Hotel. For reservations call 5640389 after 5.30 pm; 4893424.

Theatre

Konkani play
June 15: 5 pm. IAC, Funaites. The K.C.W.A. will perform a Konkani play *The Moka Naka*. Gate passes now available. For details contact Charles Vas — Tel. 4312953.

Cinema

British Council
June 16/17: 6.30 pm. "84 Charing Cross Road", a universally acclaimed film based on the true story of Helene Hanff (Anne Bancroft) will be shown. It tells the story of a 20-year love affair with the staff of a second-hand bookshop. For reservations call 2515512; 2533204; 2533227.

New lasers erase years of anxiety

By Philippa Neave

WESTCHESTER, New York, (WNL): For over 40 years Dominick Netty was plagued by something that he thought would never go away: a dark-red birthmark that covered most of the right side of his face. Known as a port-wine stain, the mark made his life a misery. "I have been aware of it ever since I can remember," he says. "Children are cruel, they used to point at me, call me names like 'red-face'." Now 45, he still recalls being turned down by a girl he had invited to a school dance, and says he felt a "psychological mess."

Today his face shows only a slight redness which could pass unnoticed. For the past two years, Netty has been undergoing treatment with a new type of laser that has produced spectacular results on him and other patients; 85 per cent of his birthmark is gone.

Until only a few years ago, very little could be done for people born with port-wine stains. They were condemned to using a special type of thick make-up, which, says Netty, on a man always looked bad. "I would be afraid that under a certain light it would show and it never looked right when we would take pictures with the family."

Little is known about what causes port-wine stains. They are not genetically passed on from one generation to the other, and there are cases in which one of a set of newborn twins is marked and the other is not. The physical cause is blood vessels lying very close to the surface of the skin that are distended. It can occur anywhere on the body and can be almost unnoticeable or very dramatic, in extreme cases covering 70 per cent of the body.

Netty is one of at least 1,000 patients treated by Dr Gary Brauner, a dermatologist who is widely considered a pioneer in the use of laser technology in treating skin ailments. "We are using many different types of lasers to treat different types of conditions," explains Brauner, who has his own practice and also works at Westchester Medical Centre, north of New York City. The center is one of the most advanced in the United States and is one of only three in the country to have three different types of laser-beam equipment for use in dermatology, including a state-of-the-art model that it acquired only three months ago.

The newest laser equipment works faster, is less painful than the older models and has reduced the risk of complications. Though it doesn't replace other lasers, it holds great promise in the treatment of birthmarks.

"The first laser to be used in dermatology was the Aragon laser in the 1960s. It was not used much to treat birthmarks until 1972, but since then it has been used on thousands of patients," Brauner explained, adding that the Aragon laser works by emitting a blue-green light ray that is absorbed by the oxygen-bearing red cells in the blood. "The intense energy put out by the ray is transformed into heat, so you get a very intense burning of the blood in the vessel. It works from the inside out. The blood vessel burns and so do the tissues around it. The heat burns its way out to the surface of the skin."

The Aragon laser is also used to treat brown birthmarks known as "café au lait" stains, which are caused by excessive exposure to the sun, freckles, or so-called liver spots. It is used most commonly, however, to treat red lesions such as port-wine stains and "burst" vessels on the nose or cheeks. Technically the vessels haven't "burst" but have been distended. The affliction is common and is caused by various factors, such as inherited tendency, exposure to the sun, hormonal changes, especially in pregnancy, and certain diseases.

The latest and possibly most promising laser for people with port-wine stains is the "Flash-Lamp Pulsed Dye Laser," which emits a yellow ray in single pulses at short intervals. The yellow ray is better absorbed by the blood and the intensity of the burn is lower. "There is less heat dissipation from the blood vessel and therefore less injury to the outer layer of the skin," and less pain, Brauner said, which makes the treatment easier to bear for children.

Another advantage of the Pulsed Dye laser over the Aragon is that it works faster. "The Aragon laser is a lot of work. The bursts are only 1 millimetre or 1.5mm in diameter. For a skin area of 4 x 6 inches, you need 5,000 bursts. It takes about one hour; it is very painstaking and labour-intensive," the 46-year-old doctor said. "The other problem is that the burn area can become infected and leave a very thick, unsightly scar."

The Pulsed Dye laser is felt like a light pinprick, according to Brauner. "Injury to the outer layer of the skin is minimal so there is no secondary risk of infection. The laser also covers a much larger area and is therefore much faster. The only problem is that it has to be repeated multiple times over the same area, but this can be done because the area heals so quickly."

Midway between the Aragon and Pulsed Dye lasers is the "Copper-Vapor" laser, which also emits a yellow ray. "This works not with one pulse but with 15,000 tiny pulses per second. It has been in use for about three years and is more effective than the Aragon laser on blood-vessel-type marks," Brauner noted.

Another type of laser, invented in 1974 and widely used for the past 10 years, is known as the carbon dioxide laser. "It has an invisible beam and is mostly used to cut off growths because it seals the blood vessels and does not cause bleeding," said Brauner. It has a wide variety of medical uses, but in dermatology it is most effective in treating recurring scarlike growths known as keloids as well as large stubborn warts, including genital warts.

Laser technology holds great promise because it doesn't emit harmful ultraviolet light or cancer-causing X-rays. Weeks-old infants have been treated with it, and it has been suggested that port-wine stains, which grow thicker and darker with age, could be treated earlier, which would prevent psychological scarring. Other applications include the treatment of red growths known as "strawberry marks" that appear in childhood. Although these almost always disappear by the age of 7, they can have serious consequences when they appear in areas such as the mouth, the nose or eye.



Before: her face disfigured by a dark-red birthmark, this patient had lost hope to lead a normal life



After: treatment with a new type of laser used in dermatology and called Pulsed Dye Laser saw her birthmark disappear almost completely

Australia's nouvelle cuisine

'Bush tucker'

By Robert Woodward

SYDNEY, (Reuters): Alongside the traditional steak, chips and meat pie, Australian menus now offer fillet of kangaroo, emu egg pavlova, and witchetty grub and bunya-bunya nut soup.

Australians are discovering the culinary delights which surround them on the hoof, in the trees and buried in the ground in the world's driest continent.

"In 10 years Australia's cuisine is going to be so new, so different from the rest of the world that it's going to have an effect like nouvelle cuisine in France 10 years ago," says Sydney Chef Jean-Paul Bruneteau.

French-born Bruneteau owns the only restaurant in Australia dedicated totally to Australian cooking with some home-grown ingredients, known colloquially as "bush tucker."

Benefiting from increasing environmental awareness, a trend towards healthier eating and a fascination for aboriginal culture, the bush tucker movement has taken off in the past two years.

Bookshops contained a wide selection of cookery books extolling such dishes as bogong moth au naturel, black nightshade flan.

The government-financed ABC network is showing a series of 30-minute programmes called "The Bush Tucker Man" which follows Les Hiddens, who trained Australian soldiers to survive on outback foods, around Australia.

In Adelaide tourists can eat medallions of kangaroo, an extremely tender meat with the consistency of silver-side beef. In Sydney wattle ice cream is available — it tastes something like hazel nuts. And in Alice Springs, if you're feeling brave, you can try cooked witchetty grubs, the larvae of ghost moths.

Aborigine guides lead tours in the country's red centre which reveal how much of what at first sight appears to be barren desert is in fact edible and nutritious.

Eating the fleshy, white witchetty grubs — slightly bigger than a man's middle finger, crunchy and tasting something like scrambled eggs — can be the highlight of a tour. Or not.

Bruneteau offers the grubs at his suburban restaurant Rowntrees which he opened six years ago after leaving his job as cook in the Australian merchant navy.

Bruneteau was introduced to Vic Cherikoff, a nutritionist who wrote a thesis on Aboriginal food at the University of Sydney, and the two men have worked in tandem building interest in Australia's edible heritage.

Cherikoff says the early European explorers and settlers, through necessity, incorporated many

Aboriginal foods and methods into their cooking — for instance, mixing milled burrawang (pine nuts) with flour to make supplies last longer.

The advent of cheap mutton and beef, via improved rail and road links snuffed out interest in bush tucker and Australians settled instead for a drab, British-based diet, Cherikoff said.

"If the French had colonised Australia, Australia would have a thriving cuisine," claims Bruneteau. "It is obvious that the reason there is no definable Australian cuisine is because no one looked at how the Aborigines ate."

"We had a multi-cultural cuisine that wanted to be called Australian but I thought unless we extracted and incorporated the flavours of Australia we were doing nothing new."

It has been hard work convincing people the berries or leaves of common trees such as the bilipili and bunya bunya pine can enhance cooking, but Cherikoff reckons he's winning.

"There has been a phenomenal rise in interest over the past couple of years and (bush tucker) has become a topic of consuming interest to a lot of people," he said.

Cherikoff is the owner of Australia's only bush tucker supply company and is currently in the rain forests of North Queensland helping in the harvest of the fruit of the lemon aspen trees, used as a flavouring in salad dressings.

He has organised five Aboriginal communities and hundreds of families in both the city and country to collect native ingredients for him, but insists his collectors are environmentally aware.

"I don't totally agree with the approach of the bush tucker man as I think we should develop people's interest along with their environmental responsibilities," Cherikoff said.

After weaning Australians back onto emu eggs — equivalent to about 12 normal eggs and very rich — Cherikoff and Bruneteau both believe the nation is ready for the wattle seed.

Bruneteau had some seeds of the wattle, or Australian acacia, in his kitchen for 12 months before one day deciding to roast and mill them. He now makes wattle cappuccino and ice cream, and believes wattle could soon rival vanilla and coffee as a flavouring.

"It has a huge potential as it's natural and is caffeine-free — it could be the world's greatest new flavour by the turn of the century," he said.

"The French chefs in Sydney are really interested in it and I've got an importer in France who wants to take all the wattle he can get his hands on. But I want to see it established in Australia before it goes overseas."

Australians are discovering the culinary delights which surround them on the hoof, in the trees and buried in the ground. In 10 years, Australian cuisine will be so different that it would have the same effect like nouvelle cuisine in France. And seeds of the wattle are expected to rival vanilla and coffee as a flavouring in decades to come.



John Lennon: victim of an obsessed fan

'Over-exposed'

Movie examines threat of fans

By Vernon Scott

HOLLYWOOD, (UPI): The threat of "fans" has become a fact of life for film and TV stars who have to worry about possible assaults, murder, rape or just bothersome attention taken to the extreme.

Celebrities get passionate letters every day from star-struck fans. Most actors and actresses appreciate the sentiment and the attention. But too often these days a "fan" becomes so obsessive he or she overwhelms the celebrity with cards and letters and telephone calls and presents and then ugly threats when the attention is unrequited.

John Lennon was murdered by a "fan." So was actress Rebecca Schaeffer. Actress Theresa Saldana was brutally slashed, but recovered from the attack.

It was an obsessive love for actress Jodie Foster that triggered the assassination attempt on President Ronald Reagan. The culprit was John W. Hinckley trying to prove his love for her by knocking off the president.

Other victims of fan harassment of one kind or other include Cher, Farrah Fawcett, Sharon Gless, Rob Lowe, Tom Cruise and David Letterman. There are dozens of other cases only the victim and the police know about.

"Overexposed" — a new movie in release about a daytime soap opera star, played by Catherine Oxenberg, being stalked by a killer — takes a timely look at the phenomenon.

Director-writer Larry Brand, who also appears in the thriller, says his story treatment was in the works three to four years ago.

"Originally the treatment was prepared for Sylvester Stallone's organisation to star his then-wife Brigitte Nielsen," Brand said. "But that fell through and I put it aside until Roger Corman decided to go ahead with it."

"Overexposed" demonstrates what some celebrities are faced with," Brand said. "But I also wanted to show that such fixations don't necessarily have to

involve celebrities — anyone can find themselves vulnerable. You don't have to be show business."

"It's just that celebrities are in the public eye and are, therefore, more exposed to this kind of abuse."

"Who knows how many murders and other crimes have been committed by obsessive people who have stalked individuals unknown to the public. Anyone who walks the streets can be a target."

"I've known people in that position. For men it can happen as it did in the movie 'Fatal Attraction.' When a woman becomes crazed with love and jealousy. You never know how these fixations manifest themselves."

According to Brand, harassment of stars is a hot topic that many people in Hollywood would just as soon not see exploited.

"But Corman is a pragmatist. He believes the media exposure of real-life situations would only help the film's commercial value."

"It's not that these obsessions are always homicidal. Often fans only want to become best friends. Sometimes they are driven by sexual desires. It can be a matter of loneliness. And it also can be dangerous."

Brand says dealing with obsessive fans goes with the territory of being a movie or television star.

"Most actors and actresses go into the business with the idea of becoming famous," he said. "So a lot of people aren't particularly sympathetic to them when they read about cases of fixations."

"Nevertheless, it is a frightening situation. Stars can minimize their exposure by keeping a low profile in public. If a star walks out of a well-known restaurant at night wearing dark glasses and flashy clothes, she is asking for recognition."

"On the other hand, they can go unnoticed if they try. I used to work for Orson Welles, and huge as he was, he could walk almost everywhere and never be recognized."

FAMILY DOCTOR

By DR ALLAN BRUCKHEIM

Angioplasty can be good alternative to bypass surgery

QUESTION: Would you please explain the surgical procedure known as angioplasty? My father's doctors are advising this operation for him, but we don't know enough about it to be able to advise my dad, who has asked our opinion. Please help us make a sound decision.

ANSWER: Angioplasty is an effective treatment for coronary artery disease where the coronary arteries — those blood vessels that bring nutrients to the heart itself — are partially or totally "closed."

Angioplasty is accomplished by inserting a narrow balloon attached to a guiding catheter through the circulatory system to the affected coronary artery. The balloon is placed at the narrowest part of the artery and then inflated at high pressure. The expansion of the balloon forces open the material that closed the artery, creating a wider channel for blood to flow through.

There are some benefits to angioplasty, as opposed to bypass surgery. The procedure does not require surgery; it can improve the ability to exercise without heart-related pain; it may increase the so-called "quality of life"; it can reduce pain caused by angina, it requires much shorter hospital stays than bypass surgery; and it costs much less than a bypass.

Patients most likely to be considered for angioplasty include those with coronary "closings" that have occurred within the past six months, those who are also candidates for bypass surgery, and those who have "closings" in several separate parts of arteries — but not in major sections of those vessels.

There are some risks associated with angioplasty. Serious coronary complications can happen during

or after the procedure. It is more dangerous for women, particularly those over 65 years who have had bypass surgery, than for any other group. The arteries may "close" again at some point, and bypass surgery must be done if the angioplasty fails.

Nevertheless, angioplasty is a major advance in medicine. It gets safer and more practical as experience is gained in its applications. It is altogether possible that this operation will provide your dad with a new lease on life, and much more pleasure while living it.

I thought you would like to know: Many of you continue to ask about the eye condition called glaucoma, perhaps because the recent news reports about President Bush have contained statements that strike home. About two million Americans have glaucoma, and it is a leading cause of blindness in the United States. The good news is that this blindness can be prevented, when the disease is diagnosed early and the necessary treatment is prescribed.

I have found just the booklet to help you gain the knowledge you need. It's called "Glaucoma, It Can Take Your Sight Away," and may be obtained by sending your request and a stamped, self-addressed business-size envelope to the American Academy of Ophthalmology, Attn: Order Clerk—G—AB, P.O. Box 7424, San Francisco, Calif. 94120-7424.

The booklet provides clear and understandable answers about the nature of glaucoma, and its causes and symptoms. There are two illustrations that will help you understand the mechanism of this disease and an explanation of its treatment.



Sydney chef Jean-Paul Bruneteau poses with bush tucker displayed in an Aboriginal Coolamon (food basket). Ingredients from top: warngul greens (spinach) and bush tomato, 4-berry, bunya nuts, Billy Goat plum, native tamarin and witchetty grubs. (Reuters wirephoto)



According to WHO, about four million people in the developing world rely on traditional medicine using plants like these, prepared in a drugstore in central Java, Indonesia.

Nature's medicine chest: a vanishing treasure

By Clare Pedrick

GENEVA, Switzerland, (WNL): Most people know that the foxglove produces digoxin, which doctors use to regulate the heartbeat, and that aspirin comes from the bark of the willow tree. But did you know that the contraceptive pill is made from the Mexican yam, or that the drug which now gives hope to four out of every five children suffering from leukemia is made from the rosy periwinkle, a plant found on the island of Madagascar?

More than one quarter of all drugs produced by the world's pharmaceutical companies are based on plants, according to studies by the United Nations' World Health Organisation (WHO). Yet, of an estimated 250,000 flowering plants believed to be in existence, only 10 per cent have been tested for medicinal properties.

The thousands of species that have yet to be examined almost certainly hold surprises, and possibly cures for some of the biggest modern-day killers, including cancer, Aids and heart disease, scientists say. But the mapping of the world's giant natural medicine chest is proving a race against time.

Pollution, building development and the clearing of the tropical rainforests have already wiped out an estimated 15 per cent of all known plants. Half the Earth's varieties are to be found in the warm, wet climate of the rainforests, currently disappearing at the rate of 100 acres a minute. Conservatives estimate that five species are obliterated every day. By the year 2050, they say, 60,000 plant types, or one in four, could be extinct.

"The scale of destruction is dramatic," said Paul Wachtel at the headquarters of the World Life Fund for Nature (WWF) in Gland, near Geneva. "We are losing plants that have not even been identified and that could possibly have provided us with life-saving medicines."

In the United States, scientists at the National Cancer Institute near Washington, D.C., are currently screening about 10,000 substances a year, including flowering plants, algae and fungi, in an attempt to find a breakthrough for Aids and for more than 100 different types of cancer. The institute has awarded grants to botanical societies and universities throughout the world to help them collect, identify and test plant species.

Initial results have proved encouraging. The screening of 18,000 marine plants and organisms produced what researchers describe as "several interesting leads," one of them, a substance named as Didemnin B, isolated from a Caribbean invertebrate called a sea squirt, has already entered clinical trials.

In separate research programmes, scientists found that cancer of the lungs, kidney and testis respond to Etoposide, a drug produced by Mayapple, long used by American Indians for the treatment of warts. Researchers looking for an Aids vaccine say they are interested by compounds found in an Amazonian oak tree and a variety of Australian chestnut. A complex sugar found in the Japanese white pine has shown some success in killing the Aids virus in laboratory conditions. It too has entered clinical trials.

"At the moment it's impossible to say how important this discovery will be, but it could possibly lead to a better understanding of the Aids virus, and ultimately a cure," Wachtel said. "The problem is there is a risk many varieties will disappear before we can get to them. Japan's white pine forests, for example are being threatened by population pressure and by over-collection of bamsai."

On the same note, Dr Michael Blick of the New

York Botanical Garden — one of three top US botanists involved in the \$5 million National Cancer Institute programme — has warned that time is running out for research into plant medicine. "The rates of extinction are escalating so quickly that if one were to find a plant that displayed interesting bioactivity, it's quite possible to go back and find its habitat destroyed," he said.

The threat is particularly serious for the developing world which relies heavily on natural medicine, experts say. "If you take away the forests, you take away the health care system for 80 per cent of the developing world," Wachtel noted. It could also deprive the world's poorest nations of a potential source of income. WWF experts estimate that developing countries could earn large sums by proper exploitation of local flora and by marketing the skills of traditional healers.

The WWF has mounted conservation projects world-wide, fencing off plots, artificially propagating threatened species, and growing more plants from seed to swell their numbers. In Malaysia and Indonesia, WWF-funded botanists are helping with the cancer institute's plant identification programme, while in Sri Lanka conservationists have asked Buddhist monks to help identify areas which harbour concentrations of medicinal herbs so they can be protected. Studies on the use of medicinal plants by local tribes are also being carried out in Africa, the Amazon Basin and in Thailand. In India, where the ancient ayurvedic "science of life" depends heavily on the use of herbal medicine, the WWF established a network of nature clubs to promote awareness of conservation among the young.

Wachtel himself took part in a WWF project in China, in the small region of Xihuangbanna, near the border with Burma and Laos. Although representing just 0.2 per cent of China's territory, the area has 13 per cent of the world's plant species, among them an herb called Artemisia, which appears to be able to fight the killer disease cerebral malaria.

"We haven't been able to explore all the plants here yet, but we know there are many which are of benefit to local people right now, and many more which could probably be of enormous importance to the rest of the world," Wachtel said.

Another plant found in a WWF project in Ethiopia has given hope to some of the hundreds of thousands of victims of Bihharzia, a debilitating disease transmitted by water snails and endemic in 76 countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America. Scientists have discovered that the common Ethiopian soapberry plant contains a natural snail-killing chemical which cleans water without producing the harmful effects of industrial pesticides.

On the Indonesian island of Siberut, off the west coast of Sumatra, Dutch botanist Dr Wanda Ave has spent two years accompanying medicine men through the forest to collect and prepare herbal remedies, and in the villages to administer them to the sick. As part of her research she has collected 1,000 samples of local plant species which are being screened for medicinal properties.

"Siberut has been isolated from the mainland by a deep ocean trench for more than 500,000 years, and as such it's a haven for wildlife and flora," explained project supervisor Dr Anton Fernhout, who is also Dutch but was born and educated in Indonesia.

"There could be something really exceptional hidden among all the different species that grow there... The problem is that development on the island is fast destroying the natural habitat. Collecting and screening these plants is a very long process, it really is a very desperate race against time."

Pollution, building and the clearing of tropical rainforests have already wiped out an estimated 15 per cent of all known plants. 'If you take away forests, you take away the health care system for 80 per cent of the developing world.' The threat is particularly serious for the developing world which relies heavily on natural medicine.

LAWRENCEVILLE, New Jersey, (UPI): A Vatican museum official has embarked on an international tour to make sure the controversial restoration of Michelangelo's acclaimed frescoes in the Sistine Chapel is properly understood.

The restoration product undertook to clean 400 years of grime from the artist's work. The unveiling of the frescoes in December unleashed a storm of controversy, including charges that the restorers had altered the 16th century masterpiece in the principal chapel in the Vatican in Rome.

"The controversy has already died down. But some critics may never change their minds," said Walter Persegati, the Vatican's international arts co-ordinator and former secretary general and treasurer of the Vatican Museum.

"It is very difficult for an art historian who has taken a stand to change. But some of them are not really at fault. When that saw we are destroying the work of Michelangelo, they don't know the care that we took in trying to find out what Michelangelo

really did. During a recent visit to New Jersey, more than 500 people packed an auditorium at Notre Dame High School in Lawrenceville to hear Persegati describe the 10-year \$4.2 million restoration.

Later trips will take him to other US cities and to Canada and Japan.

Persegati said even his more than 40 years among the art works in the Vatican could not prepare him for the thrill of seeing Michelangelo's work unveiled.

"The colour was the discovery," Persegati said. "For centuries there was the belief that Michelangelo did not use colours. There was a belief that he bathed everything in darkness."

"Seeing them coming out after the cleaning, it was like a cultural shock to see those colours had to be expected. Those were the colours of his time," Persegati said.

Dramatic before-and-after film of the frescoes drew applause as bright, almost contemporary colours emerged like

magic under the sterilized sponges of vetican technicians. Michelangelo decorated the Sistine Chapel's walls and ceiling with fresco — painting with watercolours on wet plaster.

Debate over the restoration has centred on what he may have done after the fresco had dried. "He used" a secco, mixing colours with glue and applying it to the fresco after it dried," Persegati said. "But he used that only very sparingly and only to alter the volume of a body — to make an arm larger, to change the line of forehead, maybe."

Persegati answered charges that restorers removed charges of cross-sections of the frescoes that were examined for up to six months before restoration began.

Under the microscope, Michelangelo's corrections formed a thin layer of paint tight against the plaster. Work by intervening restorers is separated by a layer of soot and dust.

During the cleaning, he said, Vatican technicians noted the original secco work and left it intact, removing only the later,

clumsier painting done over the centuries by less-skilled retouchers.

Persegati said that controversy aside, the job was technically simple.

"Really, the cleaning of the Michelangelo frescoes is a very easy one," Persegati said. "Michelangelo followed very scrupulously the rules of the good fresco making, using the colours and the plaster well." He said the cleaning showed Michelangelo used contrasting colours closely applied, but not blended, to add dimension to his figures, connecting his style more closely to other painters of his time.

Some early viewers of the restored fresco said the newly cleaned figures seemed to lack depth.

"Maybe for the first six months we left on the lighting that was used for lighting the dirty fresco," Persegati explained. "The dirty fresco needed a lot of light because otherwise you see nothing. That makes the new ones look flat. Now we have the electric lights turned off and you see them lit as Michelangelo

wanted them to be seen." The final task is to protect the fresco. The dust, the exhalations, and even the perfumes worn by tourists could again darken the fresco if nothing were done.

To meet the challenge, a computerized climate control system by the Carrier Corp will be installed by the end of the year, Persegati said.

The system will keep the chapel at 72 degrees (22 C and 55 per cent humidity to help stabilize the frescoes. More importantly, it will filter out both dust and gases and positively pressurize the building, causing air to flow out through any openings and keep out pollution, Persegati said.

The restoration project is being paid for by Nippon Television Network of Japan, in return for exclusive rights to all images produced of the frescoes for three years. The Vatican had unsuccessfully sought financial support in Italy and the United States.

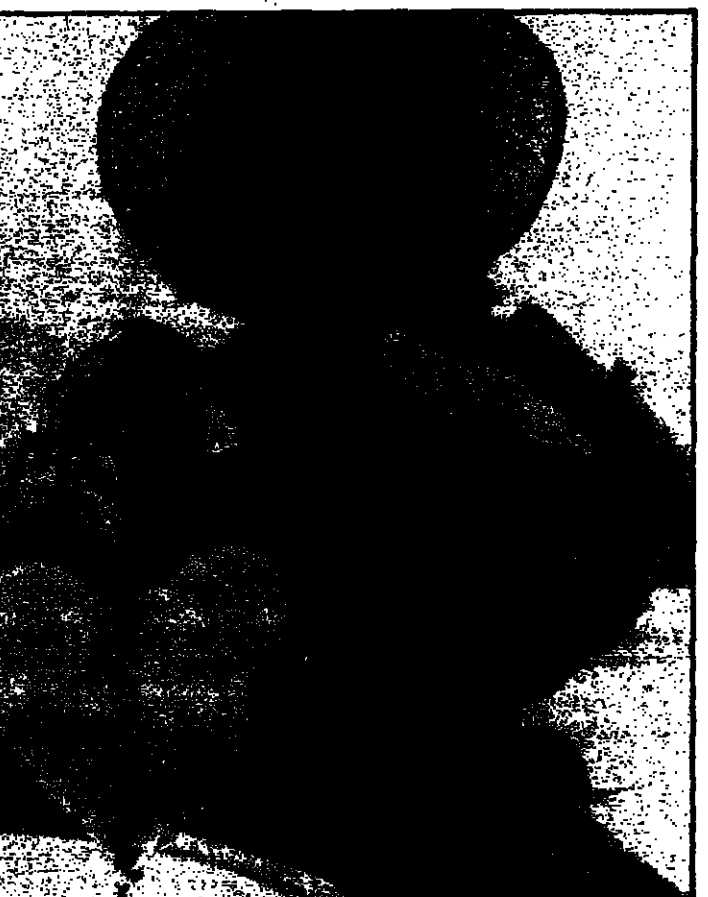
Nippon also has agreed to pay for the Vatican's \$5 million cleanup of Michelangelo's *The Last Judgment*, a task expected to take four to five years.

Sistine Chapel restoration

Vatican official defends project



Singer Lynsey de Paul says she likes men who are compassionate about the world.



Actress Susannah York likes a good sense of humour.

What's the bottom line in finding Mr Perfect?

By Kate Saunders

What's your idea of the perfect man? Tough and athletic — a Rambo of the suburbs, all shoulders and rippling muscles?

Or perhaps your taste runs to the more sensitive type, vibrant sexuality lurking beneath the cool, intelligent exterior?

Try this quiz and add up your score to see how close you are to finding your ideal man and then read what some of the world's most attractive women look for in a mate. And why an expert believes the shape of his rear is all-important.

1. Would you submit yourself to a man with tremendous personal ambition and drive?
a. without a doubt?
b. reluctantly?
c. never?
2. On that vital first date would you want to be:
a. surprised and taken by surprise?
b. shown off in an exclusive spot?
c. asked what to do and where to go?
d. an equal partner?
3. Do you prefer a male who is:
a. studious and well read?
b. sporty and athletic?
c. relaxed and cosy?
d. well-groomed and beautifully dressed?
4. Is it important for a man to:
a. take lots of exercise?
b. take some exercise?
c. avoid exercise whenever possible?
d. take your advice on exercise?
5. Would you want a man to:
a. do all the housework?
b. leave the home to you?
c. share the home chores equally?
d. hire a housekeeper for you both?
6. Should a man be romantically persistent, even if you reject his amorous advances:
a. naturally?
b. not at all?
c. I never refuse!
d. at a decent interval?
7. Would your dream night be spent:
a. alone at his home?
b. out on the razzle?
c. chatting over a quiet dinner?
d. all of these things?
8. Do you judge a man's sexual performance by:
a. the time he takes?
b. the care he brings?
c. the gifts he brings?
d. the number of times he comes back for more in one night?
9. Would you prefer your man to dress:
a. casually?
b. expensively?
c. correctly for every occasion?
d. you prefer him undressed?
10. Would you judge a man who asked to borrow money from you as:
a. strong?
b. greedy?
c. pathetic?

d. disorganised but loveable?

YOUR SCORE

	a	b	c	d
1	5	3	1	2
2	5	3	2	1
3	2	5	3	1
4	5	3	1	2
5	5	2	3	1
6	5	1	3	2
7	2	3	1	5
8	2	1	5	3
9	2	5	1	3
10	5	3	2	1

THE VERDICT

50-60: SHRINKING VIOLET

You are looking for a strong, dominant male — well organised, rich, successful and completely ruthless in getting what he wants. Very often, however, he will put your needs at the bottom of his list of priorities. But you don't think you're all that important a person anyway. Get rid of that idea immediately!

30-50: GO-GO GIRL

You're one for the action all right. What you want is a handsome hunk who knows his way around and is prepared to make you a flashy accessory to his comfortable lifestyle. Unlikely, though, that you'll be his only female accessory. He is almost certain to have one or two other female admirers tucked away — now and in the future.

20-30: YOUTHFUL ENTHUSIAST

There's a strong streak of the mother in you. The man you need is definitely younger than you — cautious, uncertain and needing to be taught a lot about life. You will be able to mould and fashion him exactly as you would like and enjoy doing it. Don't make too much of a man of him, though — he might cast you off for a young girl he can mould himself.

10-20: PERFECT MATE

That's exactly what you are — and you long for the man in your life to be exactly the same. You are a well-balanced person, able to fight for your own needs yet willing to see other people's. A true partnership is what you dream of — unless, of course, you've found it already. In which case, thoughts of other men very rarely enter your head.

'How to make love....' controversy

Movie opens in New York

LOS ANGELES, (UPI): An autobiographical film based on the sexual exploits of a Haitian man in Canada has drawn criticism from black activists who find it difficult to get past the movie's title.

How To Make Love To A Negro Without Getting Tired opens this month in four New York theatres, and is scheduled to play in one Los Angeles movie house in mid-July.

While distributors have billed the movie as a positive, "ennobling" portrayal of a black man, at least one Los Angeles activist group has already expressed concern over the film's title.

"We considered it to be offensive to us because it perpetuates a stereotype of black people being inhumanly sexual beings," said Elaine Pounds, director of the Los Angeles black media coalition.

Meanwhile, on the east coast, one New York theatre refused to screen the movie because of the controversy and the Boston Globe would not run its ads.

By way of a compromise the New York

Times and the Daily News in New York agreed to run ads for the film reading *How To Make Love....* The rest of the title appears in French, which is spoken in Haiti, in much smaller print at the bottom of the ads.

A similar advertising compromise will probably be reached with daily newspapers in Los Angeles, said Joseph Saleh, president of Angelika Films, the movie's distributors. Saleh said the Village Voice and other alternative east coast newspapers have run the movie's full title.

The one Los Angeles theatre that has committed to screening the film, Laemmle's Fine Arts in Beverly Hills, plans a marquee that simply reads *How To Make Love....*

"The fact that they're shortening the title helps," Pounds said. "At least we won't have to drive down the street and see this (on a marquee)."

Last summer, Pounds began writing to Angelika, expressing her group's concern over the film's title. She said, however, she

has been unable to see the movie before its release and the coalition, which consists of about 20 people, has yet to take an official stand on the movie itself.

How To Make Love To A Negro Without Getting Tired is a comedy based on an autobiographical novel by Danny Laferriere, a Haitian writer who now lives in Montreal. It's the story of a black man's exploits in a foreign country with white women who are eager to have sex with him. The movie is in French with English subtitles.

Although the film — clearly out of the mainstream of the anticipated summer blockbusters — will have extremely limited distribution, Pounds said she has received several telephone calls from members of the black community who heard about the movie and bristled at its title.

"My problem is that the title perpetuates a negative stereotype, and a stereotype which further isolates us as a people and suggests that we are somehow different than everybody else," Pounds

said. Henry Dotson, treasurer at the Los Angeles branch of the NAACP, expressed similar scepticism.

"My immediate reaction is that I would not be in favour of such a title," Dotson said.

"We have to be very careful about the subtle inferences that have been passed," Dotson said.

The National Association for the Advancement of Colour People, or NAACP, has taken no official stand on the film, he said.

Pounds said she has read Laferriere's novel and was not impressed with his prose, which was critically acclaimed in Canada. Pounds said she was particularly bothered by apparently derogatory references the author made to other races.

Saleh defended the movie saying, "The title is provocative, but that's at the insistence of the writer; that's part of the vision of the story he wants to tell." Laferriere also co-wrote the screenplay.

LEISURE

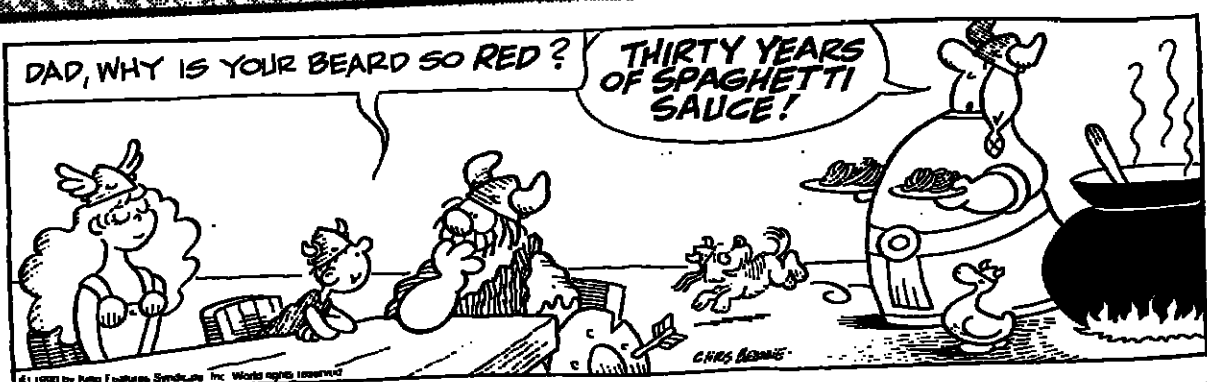
BLONDIE

By San Drake



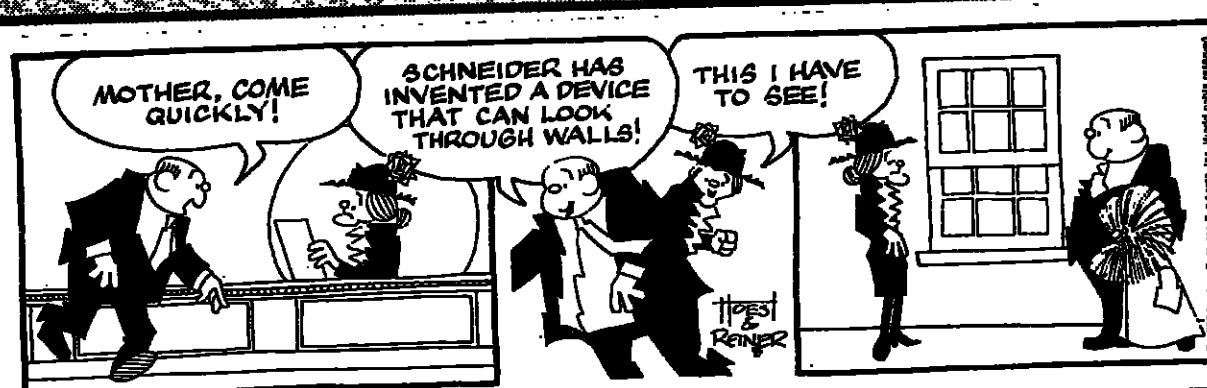
MAGAR THE HORRIBLE

By Dan Higgins



ALMA CRUMP

By Bill Hoest



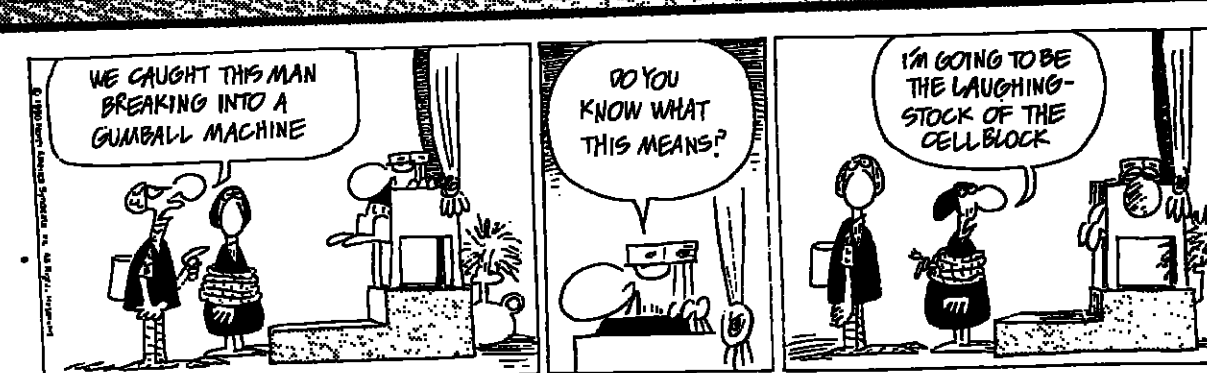
SEPTIMBALEY

By Dan Higgins

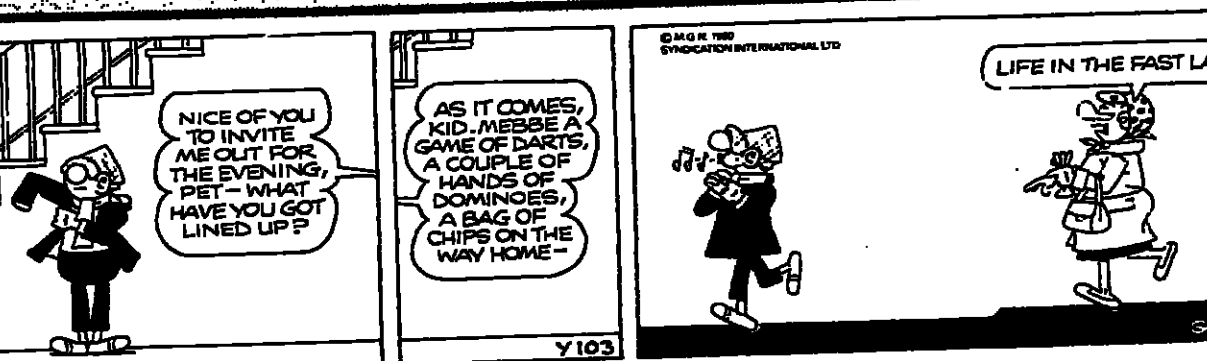


THE WIZARD OF ID

By Parker & Johnny Hart



ANDY CAPP



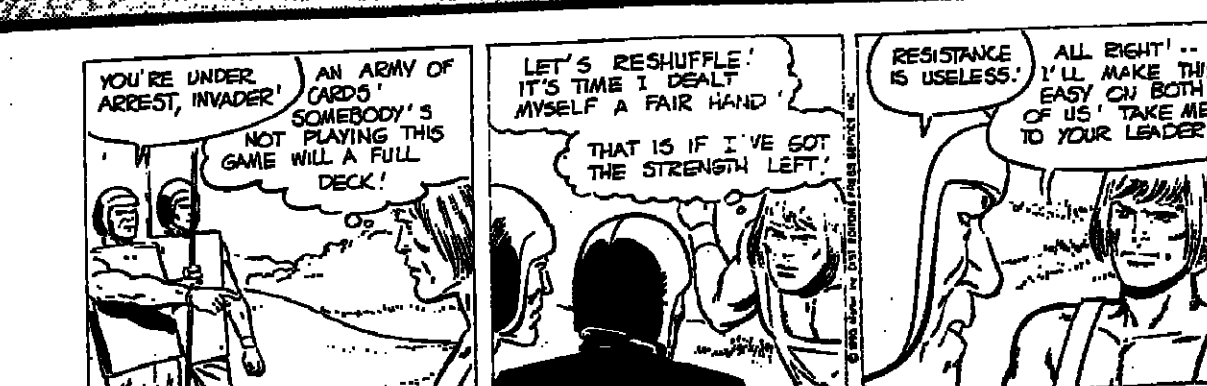
B.C.

By Johnny Hart

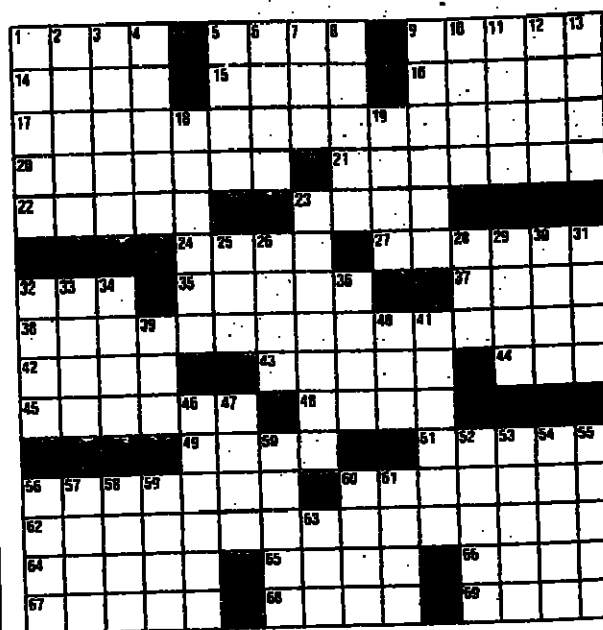


THE MAN

By G. Forton & J. Shull



TODAY'S CROSSWORD



ACROSS

1 European range

5 Writer Emile

9 Of the Vatican

14 Clammy residue

15 Dumfound

16 Source of oil

17 Race track highlight

20 Participants in

22 Cartoonist Thomas and family

23 School orgs.

24 Fly high

27 Little squirt

32 Health resort

35 Inventor Howe

37 Novelist Mazo

38 Track meet highlight

42 Comedian Johnson

43 Eagle's home

44 — Cruces, N.M.

45 — up: cluttered

48 Extreme anger

49 Gypsy Rose et al.

51 Small valleys

56 Public disgrace

60 Gorge

62 Field day highlight

64 Anxious

65 Innermost part

66 Baker's need

67 Rouses to action

68 "On Your —"

69 Decorate again

DOWN

1 Chic Colorado resort

2 Fictional Doone

3 Versifiers

4 Tee off

5 Writer Grey

6 Is indebted

7 Brown of renown

8 Something of value

9 Fertilizer ingredient

10 "Dear me!"

11 Freshwater fish

12 Declare

13 Fewer

14 Madrid

15 Matrons' Abbr.

16 Farvest requests

17 Corrida cheer

18 Verdi opera

19 Tot up

20 Meat for schnitzel

21 "Born Free" Jones

22 Stadium sounds

23 Trick that deludes

24 Unadulterated

25 Hill dwellers

26 Poet Teasdale

27 — Moines

28 Equip with sails

29 Transferred legally

30 Church officials

31 Transaction

32 Put in office

33 Oversight

34 Decamp

35 Spiked the punch

36 Office worker

37 Part of Armstrong's quote

38 Scorch

39 Jason's ship

40 Requirement

41 Fairy-tale character

42 Churchillian signs

43 Sentimental drive

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE



GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF

ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

♠J7 ♥KQ9 ♦AQJ32 ♣QJ10

The bidding has proceeded:

North East South West

1 ♠ Pass 2 ♦ Pass

2 ♥ Pass 3 ♠ Pass

4 ♦ Pass ?

What do you bid now?

A.—Partner's bid of two spades is a reverse—don't let anyone tell you otherwise. You are in the slam zone and everything hinges on whether or not partner has a club control. Jump to five hearts to show slam interest with two losers in the unbid suit. Partner should have no problem knowing what to do.

Q.2—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

♠8643 ♥1097 ♦942 ♣KQ10

The bidding has proceeded:

North East South West

1 ♠ Pass 1 ♥ Pass

2 NT Pass ?

What action do you take?

A.—Many players are under the impression that a jump rebid of two no trump is forcing. Not so. It is a "limit" bid showing 19-20 points and responder should go on to game only if he thinks there are sufficient values for getting home. With a flat, sub-minimum hand there is no reason for South to bid on. Pass.

Q.3—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:

♠A83 ♥10952 ♦J97 ♣Q83

The bidding has proceeded:

North East South West

1 ♦ Dbl ?

What action do you take?

A.—Since your side clearly has the balance of power, it would seem that a redouble is in order. However, consider the problem you face if West, say, bids two spades and the

auction is passed round to you. Do you double, bid two no trump, pass? Spare yourself that headache by passing now and hope the opponents will allow you to play a doubled contract that might yield a juicy overtrick or two.

Q.4—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

♠Q42 ♥Q1032 ♦A95 ♣QJ4

Partner opens the bidding with one no trump. What do you respond?

A.—With a perfectly balanced hand, and thus no ruffing value, most players do not employ the Stayman Convention to check on a possible 4-4 major fit. We endorse that position, so we would simply raise to three no trump.

Q.5—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

♠KJ105 ♥4 ♦J753 ♣AKJ3

What is your opening bid?

A.—Normally, with 4-4 in the minors we recommend opening one diamond. Here, however, the disparity in suit quality is so great that we would go against our convictions and open one club. There is no question which suit we want led should the opponents buy the hand.

Q.6—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

♠95 ♥AKJ853 ♦98 ♣Q64

The bidding has proceeded:

North East South West

1 ♦ Pass 1 ♥ Pass

1 ♠ Pass ?

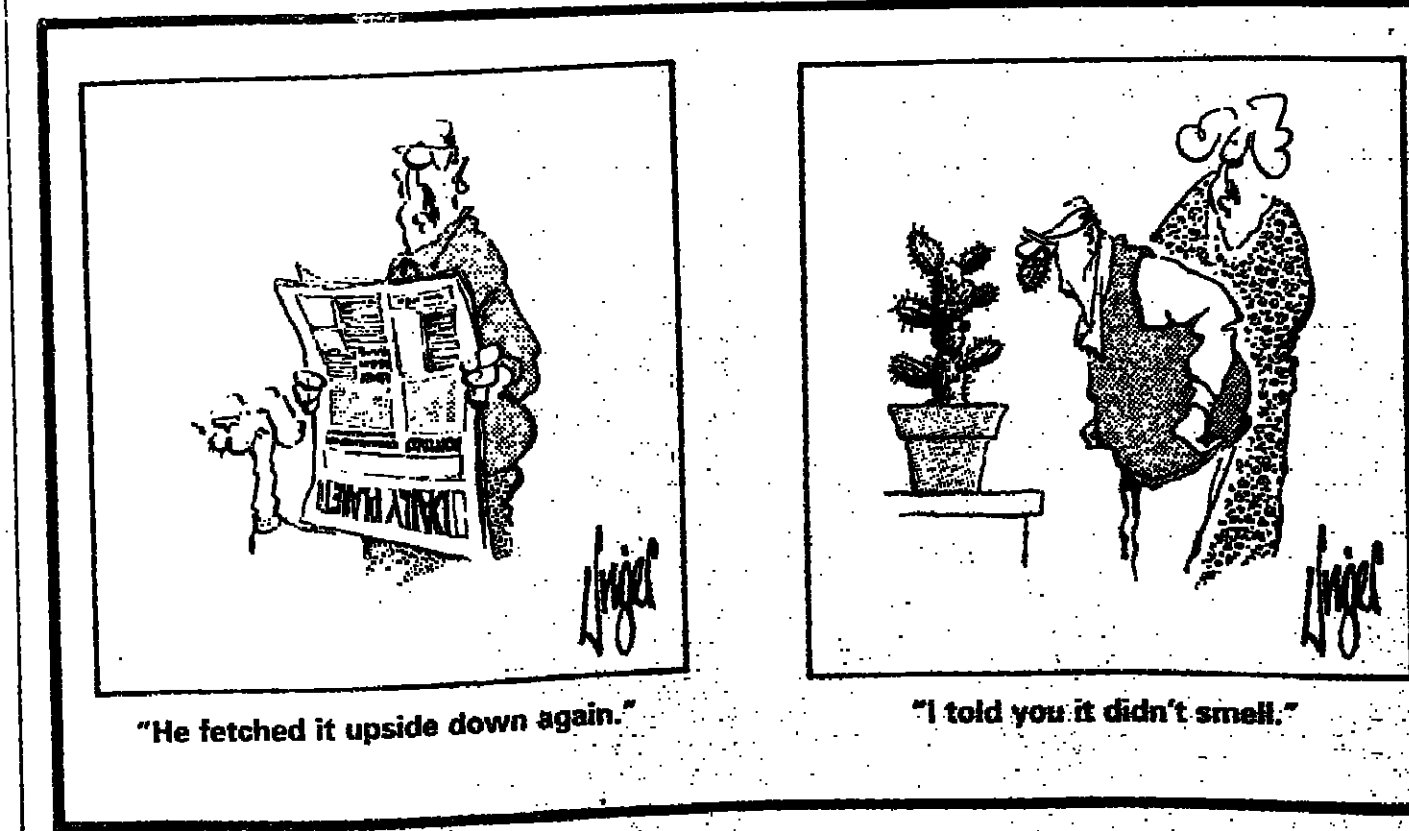
What do you bid now?

A.—You have a pretty good hand, but not quite enough to go to game without a little extra help from partner. Jump to three hearts. That is invitational, shows a good six-card suit and asks partner to decide if his hand is suitable for game.



YOUR STARS

Aries March 21 - April 20 You should try to think constructively and take your mind off negative thoughts. Keep calm whilst dealing with an irritable person. Do not allow work to take over your life completely. Be courteous.	Cancer June 21 - July 20 You will have to keep your wits very much about you. Something that you had feared might not happen. Make sure you do not do anything that would be bad for your health. Be to the point.	Libra Sept 23 - Oct 22 If you have an appointment make sure you are not late for it. Better a little early. Take special care not to let someone into a secret. You are tending to get set in your habits and should try to avoid it. Be more patient.	Capricorn Dec 22 - Jan 19 A tendency towards slothfulness will have to be overcome. You will have an opportunity to remedy a mistake and should not be slow to take it. Keep your head high but do not do anything that is arrogant or condescending. Be trustworthy.
Taurus April 21 - May 20 Have a little more faith in yourself. Something you never thought would happen will and it will be to your advantage. Do not allow a hobby to get too much of hold of you. Be amenable.	Leo July 21 - Aug 21 Ensure that you get sufficient rest as well as plenty of exercise. Keep within safe and proper limits. You will tend to start off in the wrong direction but there is still time to change course. Be considerate.	Scorpio Oct 23 - Nov 21 You will be tempted to throw caution to the wind where expenditure is concerned. If you do you will come to regret it, so take care you do not. You should not allow your enthusiasm to flag but nor should you be enthusiastic about some triviality. Be conscientious.	Aquarius Jan 20 - Feb 19 You should not take everything quite so literally but do not read too much into things either. Listen carefully to what others are saying and do your best not to misunderstand them. You should be prepared to change your opinion in the light of new information.
Gemini May 21 - June 21 You will be glad you persevered with acquiring a skill which seemed you would never learn. Do not take too much for granted but nor should you doubt everything. Make sure you keep a promise you made some time ago. Be more cautious.	Virgo Aug 22 - Sept 22 You will have something to be pleased about but do not allow it to go to your head. A good idea of yours is liable to be copied. Never mind, regard it as a compliment, there are plenty more good ideas in your head. Be generous.	Sagittarius Nov 23 - Dec 21 Something you have been meaning to do for a long time should be attended to without further delay. Your lucky numbers are 6 and 27. You will tend to tire rather easily and should ensure you get enough rest. Try to dress comfortably but not untidily. Be forgiving.	Pisces Feb 20 - March 20 You are liable to pay too much attention to minor issues and should try to refrain from so doing. Avoid getting into an argument and cut it short if you do. Do not rely more on intuition than on reason. Be tactful.



Dear Junior Readers,

Swimming is one of the most popular summer pastimes in Kuwait. Some people enjoy swimming in swimming pools, but salty

water usually gets more attention. Kuwait is surrounded by beautiful sandy shores meaning people from all parts of Kuwait are never too far from the beach. Not all of the beaches are safe though and it is advisable to swim

only in the popular areas. Secluded beaches are sometimes very attractive but they may be very dangerous too. The current may be too strong and you may find yourself drifting too far offshore; or the sand may be too soft and you start

to sink without noticing. If you go to the beach with a group of friends try to be careful and do not feel daring. Life is very precious gift which is not worth toying with.

Manal

Wordsearch

LET'S PARTY

BEACH
CARD
CHRISTMAS
DEBUT
ELECTION
FAREWELL
GRADUATION
HALLOWEEN
LAWN
MAY DAY

NEW YEARS
REUNION
SHOWER
SKATING
STAG
SURPRISE
TEA
VALENTINE
VICTORY

T R E S S A M T S I R H C
L U T N N G Y A D Y A M E
T A B B O B N V I L E R E
G R E E I I I L L E A S
T R E A D C T O T R O U R
N S C N T S W A E A R O F
O H H O I E R U U P K A D
I R R O E T N A R D R S R
T Y O N W I N I E E A L A
C H E E O E S E W Y L R C
E V E N A E R E L E W G G
L L O O E E L L A A E E R
E W W O T L N W A L V I N

Join the dots



Number fun

Write



Copy: six



seven



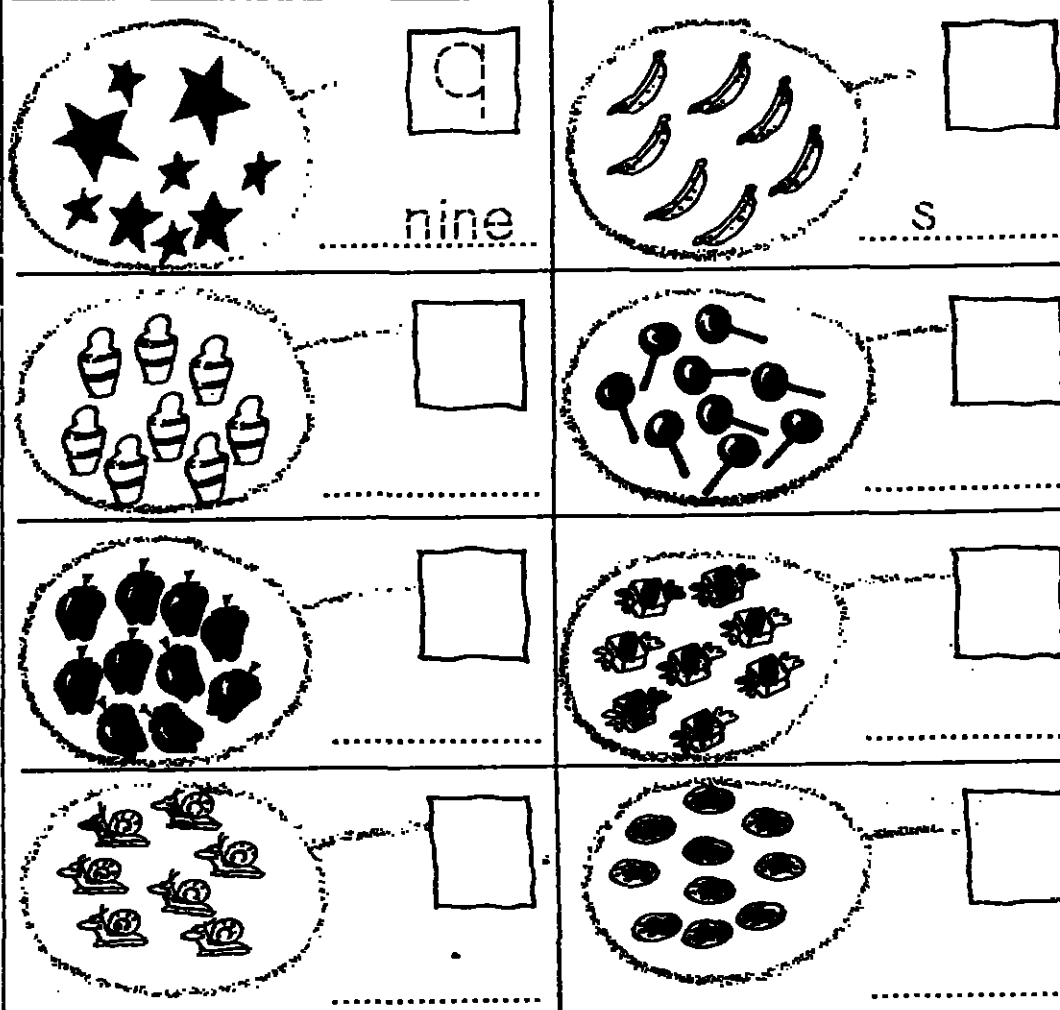
eight



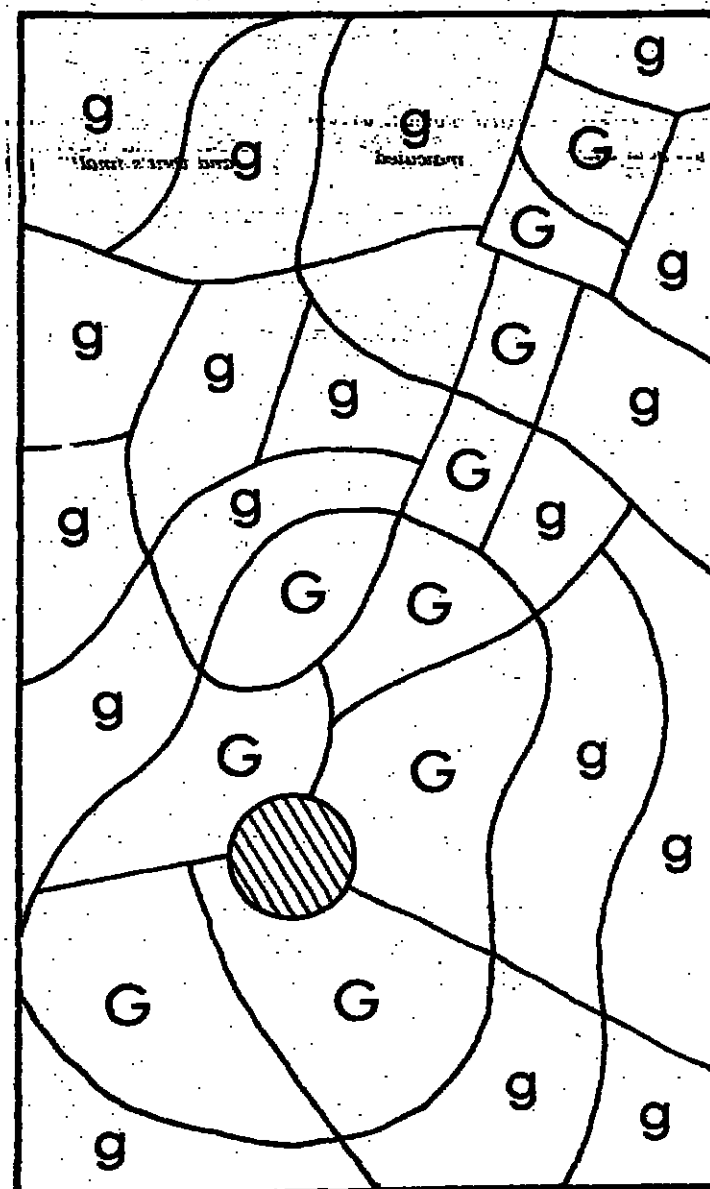
nine



ten



Color the 'g' spaces one color. Color the spaces with the capital 'G's another color. What do you see that begins with g?

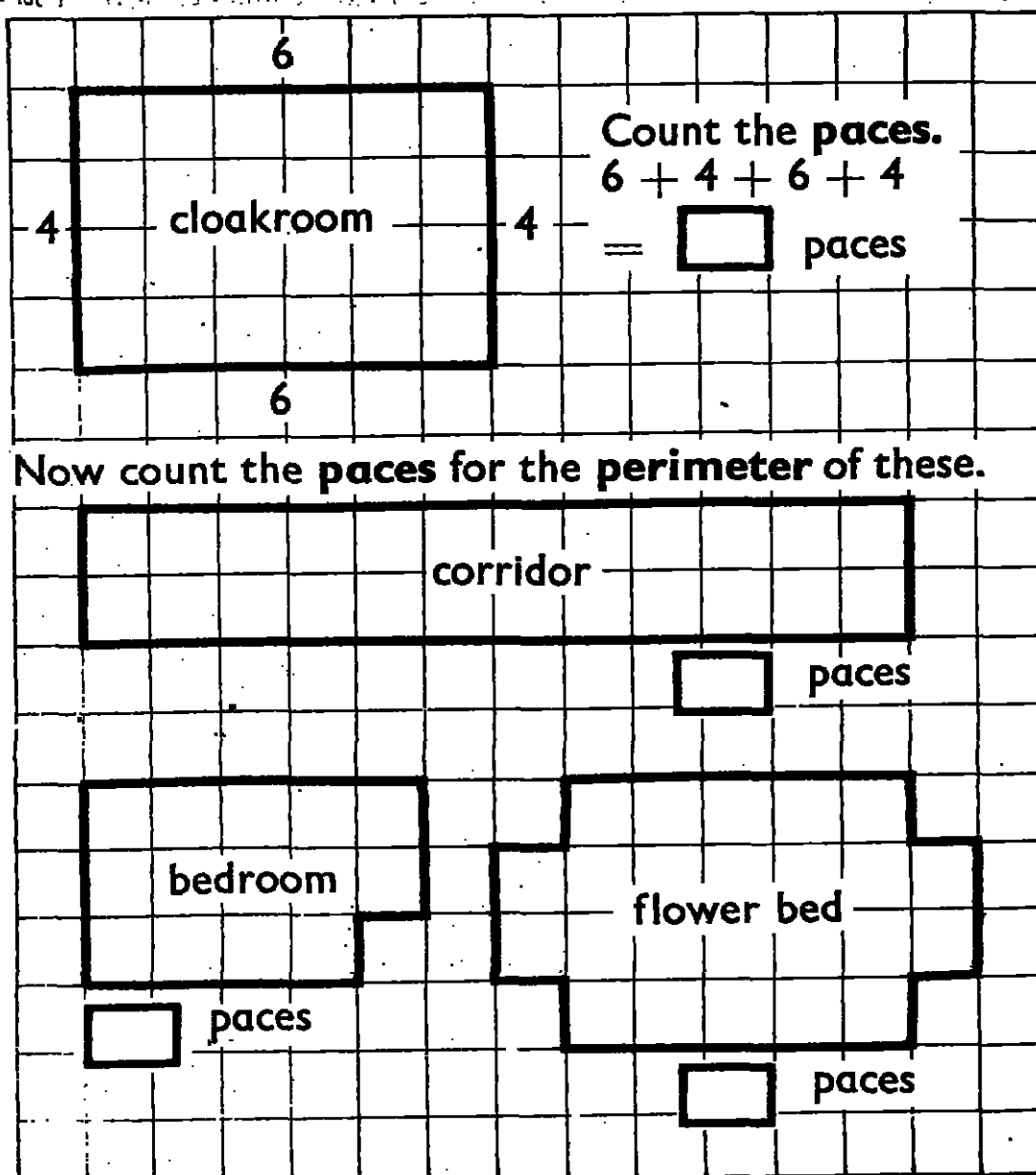


Write the missing letter.

uitar

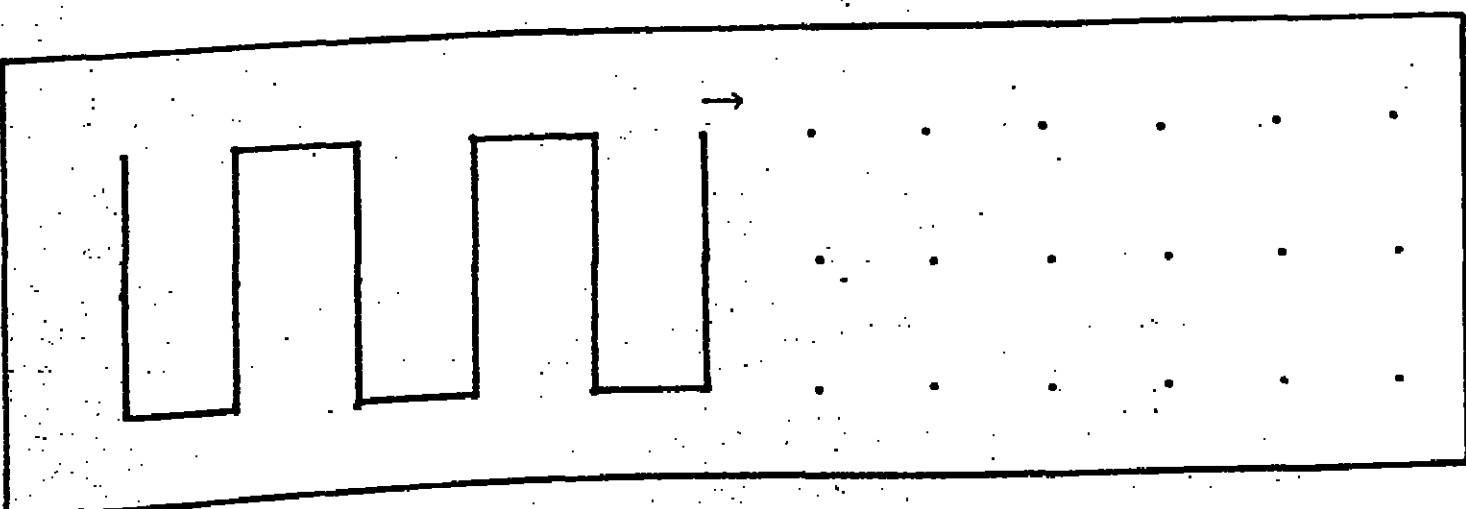
Measuring round a shape - perimeter

John decided to measure the distance round his cloakroom. He paced it. He drew this plan using one square for one pace. He then did the same for the other 3.



Draw

Complete all the shapes.



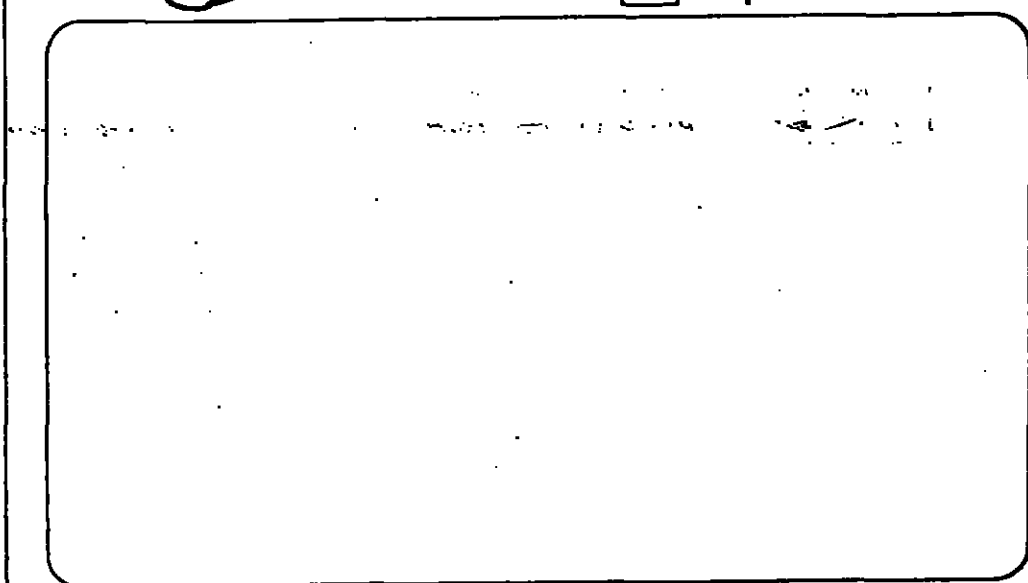
Just for laughs!

'I've made the chicken soup for lunch today,' said big sister proudly to her small brother.
'Thank goodness for that,' said the wart, 'I thought it was for us.'

Sister: 'Try some of my sponge cake.'
Brother: (Nibbling on a piece) 'It's a bit tough, isn't it?'
Sister: 'Yes, I can't understand it. I bought the sponge fresh from the chemist this morning!'

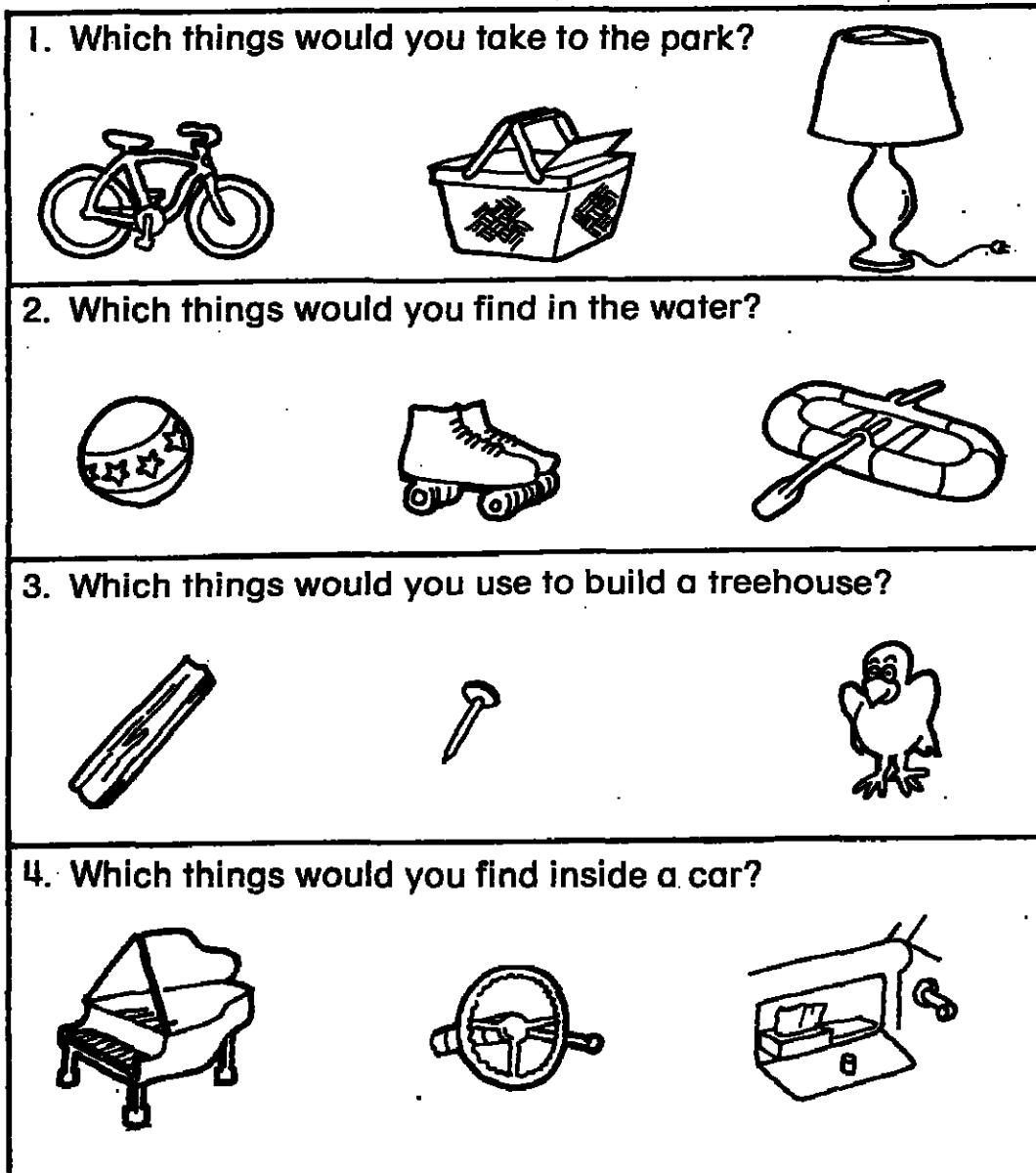
What trees do fingers and thumbs grow on?
Palm trees.

How many cupfuls of water can you get out of a full kettle? cupfuls.



Draw and colour the cups in the set.

Read each question. Color all the pictures that correctly answer the question.



While civilisations grew up and flourished in Europe and Asia, people in other continents were independently learning the arts of civilisation — building towns and villages, farming and making discoveries that improved their lives. But the outside world knew little of the peoples in deepest Africa, south of the Sahara, and nothing at all of the Americas.

The Americas
Long before the first Europeans reached North America, a Mongoloid people (later called 'Red Indians' or 'American Indians') were spread throughout the continent. They had come originally from Asia, some 20,000 years ago. They followed wandering animals — their only food supply — across a land bridge that in those days linked Siberia with

The Unseen Worlds

Alaska across the Bering Strait.

Eskimos, also originally from the heartland of Asia, followed a similar route. But it is thought that they probably reached North America in boats many thousands of years later.

The Indians travelled southwards until they had occupied most of North and South America. But those who settled north of the Rio Grande remained a primitive and loosely linked society of tribes. The Indians adapted to the different geographical and climatic conditions of the lands where they settled. They evolved into four broad groups — hunters,

gatherers, fishermen, and farmers — each with its own regions of operation.

In the south, from the Gulf of California to Guatemala, the Indians learned to grow maize, and developed an advanced civilisation. These Indians included the Aztec, Maya, and Toltec.

Black Africa
Between 1.75 million and 600,000 years ago, Africa was the home of an intelligent, ape-like creature that was probably one of man's early ancestors. But from those far-off days until the AD 800s, almost nothing is known of the history of the main part of the continent, lying south of the Sahara, and

known as 'Black Africa.'

Knowledge of 'Black Africa' is scanty because its peoples for many hundreds of years were unable to read or write and, as a result, left few records of their presence. They were also very late in learning about and using the wheel. The wheel has been one of man's greatest aids to civilisation. But there was some communication and trade between the two Africas across the desert wastes of the Sahara. Adventurous Arabs travelled southwards and took salt with them to exchange for gold, hides, ostrich feathers, ivory, and slaves.

Among the many kingdoms and states that arose



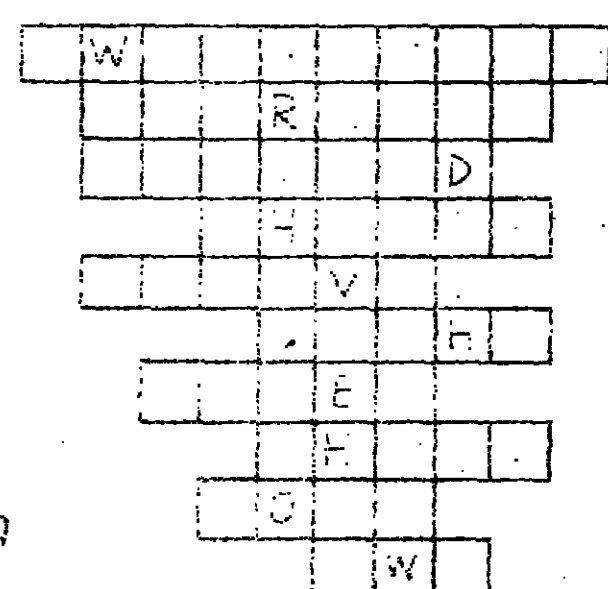
A stone figure from Guatemala where the Mayan civilisation flourished from AD 300 to 900. Ceremonial centres discovered in the jungles show that these people were great builders and fine craftsmen.

at the southern edge of the desert, Ghana was at first the most important. But in the 1000s and 1100s other kingdoms flourished in western Africa, and

through Arab influence became major centres of Muslim culture. They included Mali, Songhai, the Oyo empire of the Yoruba, and Benin.

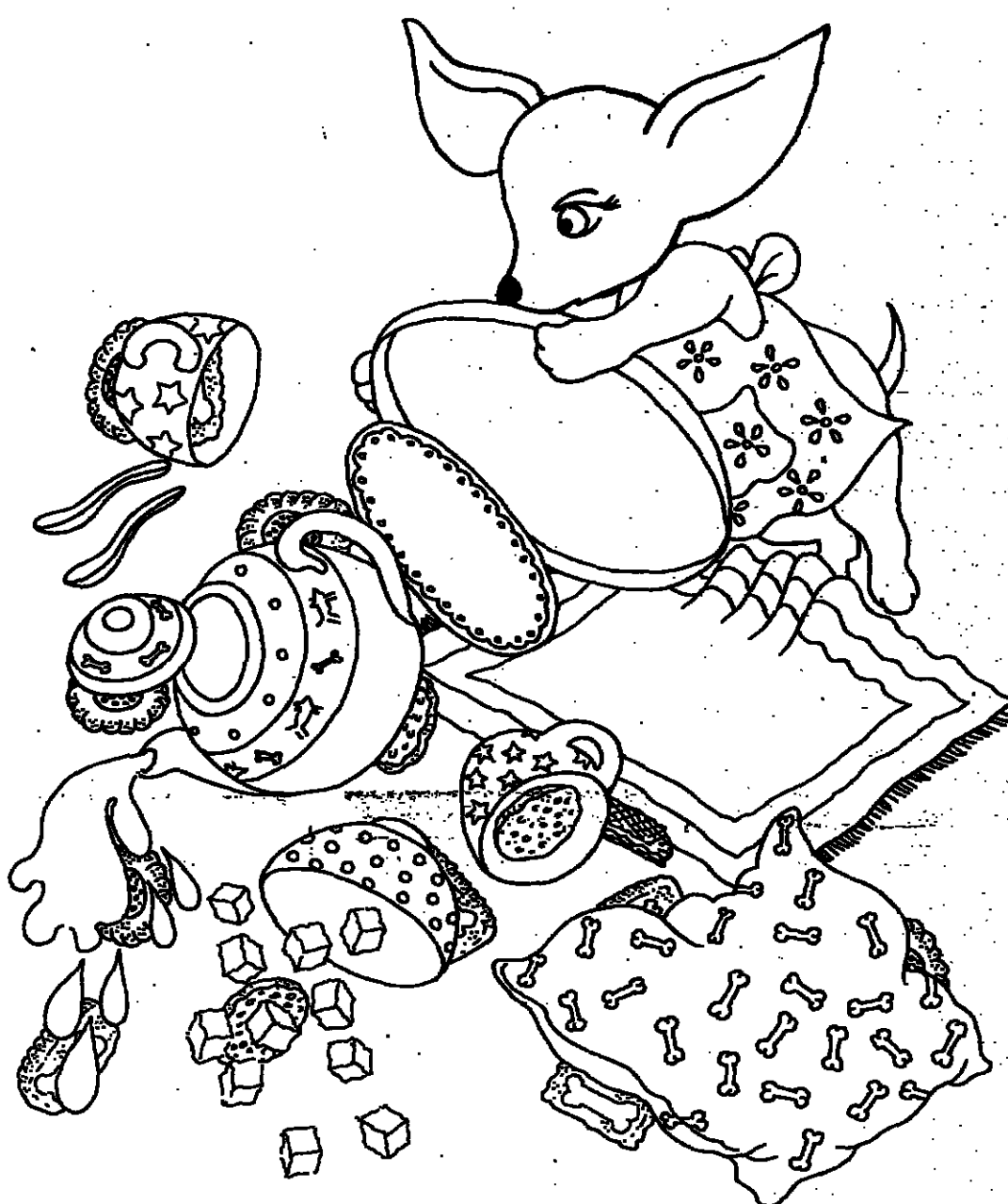
Number grid

Each of the questions below is answered by a number. Answer all the questions, then fit the numbers (in words) into the grid. One letter of each word has already been filled in to help you.



- 1 How many legs has a spider?
- 2 How many babies are there when quadruplets are born?
- 3 How many hours are there in a day?
- 4 How many days are there in a week?
- 5 How many years are there in a century?
- 6 Which number is said to be unlucky?
- 7 How many days are there in September?
- 8 What does 'bi' mean in words like 'bicycle' and 'bifocal'?
- 9 How many are there in a dozen?
- 10 How many sides has a triangle?

Cornelia has dropped the tea tray How many biscuits can you see?



Baby of the Week



Haltham Farray is this week's Baby of the Week. He has turned 8 weeks recently and is Junior Times' youngest reader yet!

Amazing facts

A tortoise which died in Devon, England in 1977 had lived for over 116 years.

It has been estimated that there are an average of 50,000 spiders per acre of green land, and that they destroy 100 times their number in insects.

The dromedary is a one-humped Arabian camel which is specially bred for speed. A good one can run 110 km (70 mi) a day.

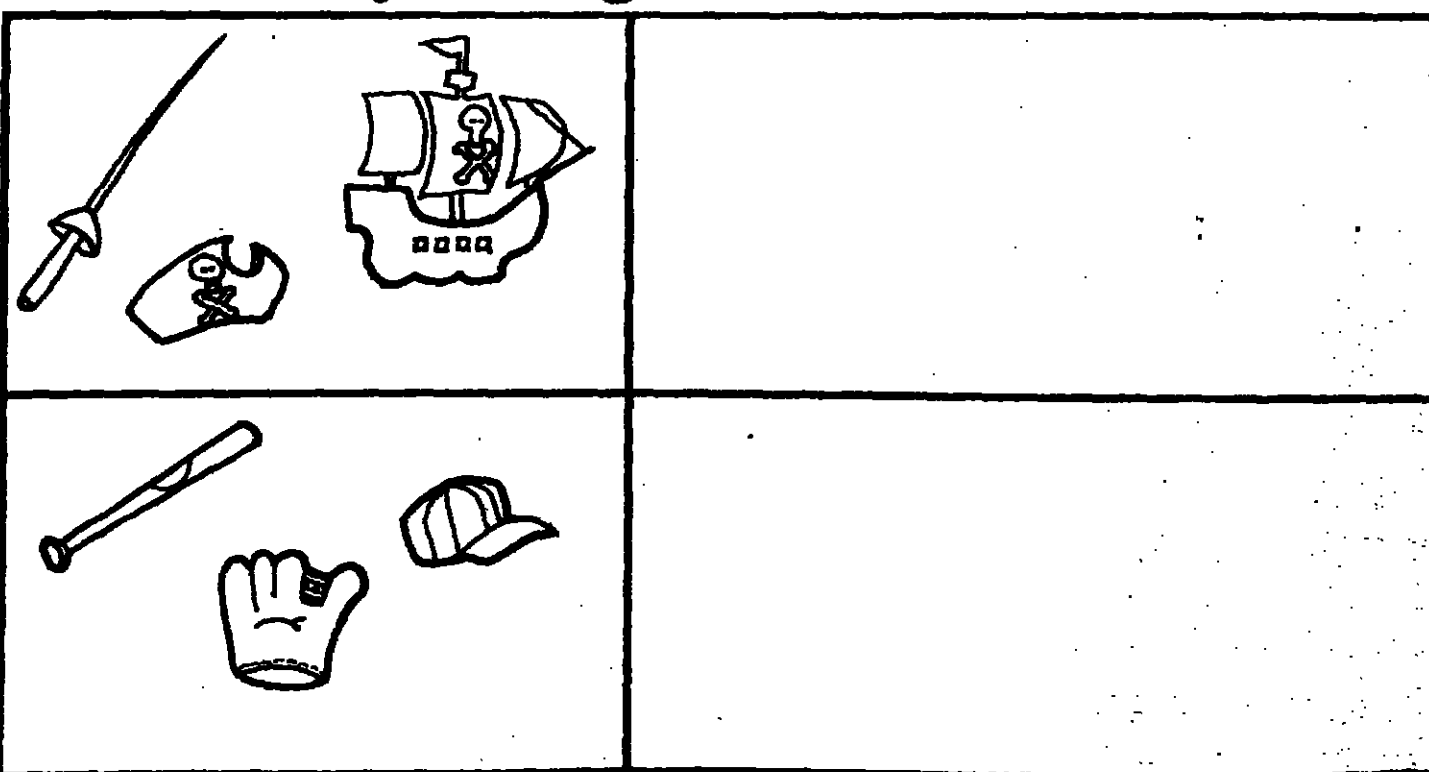
The water flea of northern Europe measures a mere 0.25 mm (0.1 in) from top to toe. This means it would take nearly 16,000 water fleas standing on each other's backs to reach the shoulder of the tallest elephant ever seen, a 4m (13ft) giant shot in Angola in 1974.

A mollusc called the sea hare can lay over a million eggs a day.

The coelacanth is a fish which was believed to have been extinct for 60 million years but it had been regularly caught by fishermen off the coast of South Africa, a fact not discovered by scientists until 1938.

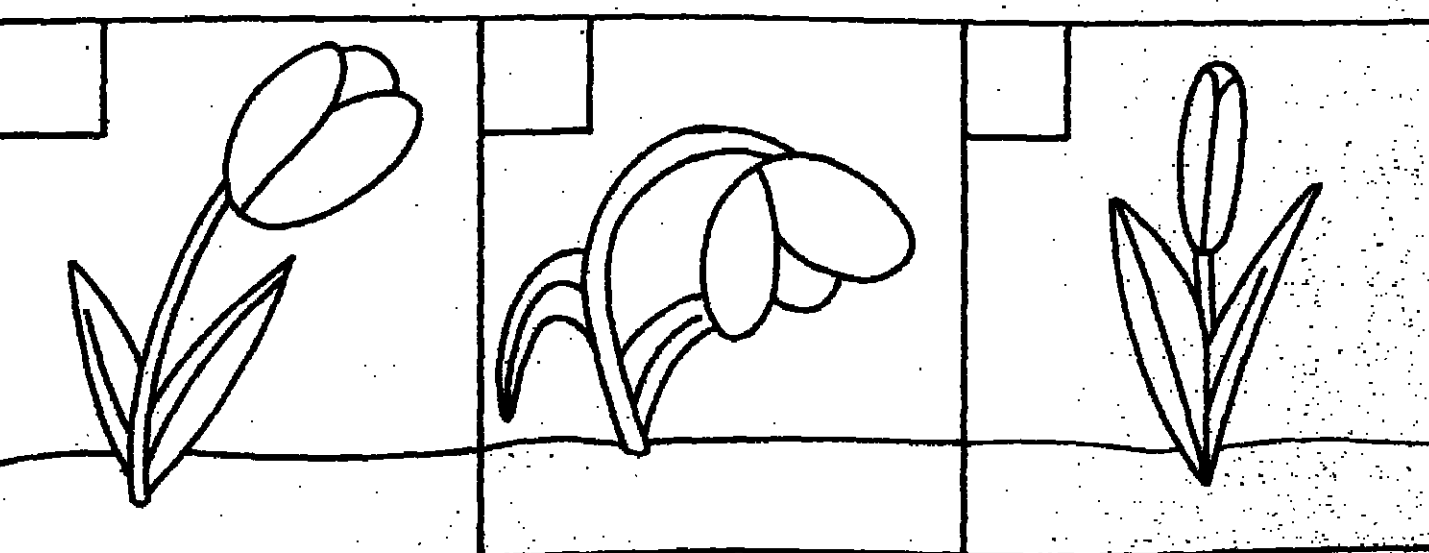
Who do they belong to?

Look at the three objects on the left. Then draw a picture on the right that shows whom may own the objects.

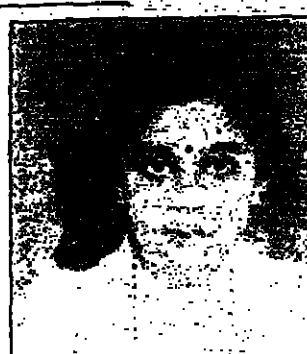


The right order

Number each set of pictures 1, 2 and 3 so that they tell the story in the correct order.



Happy birthday



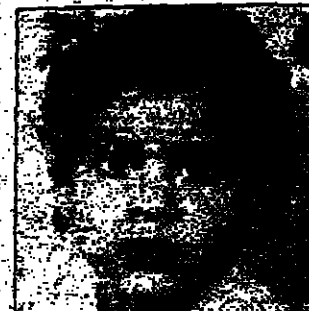
Soujanya Cheruvu turned 7 on June 5



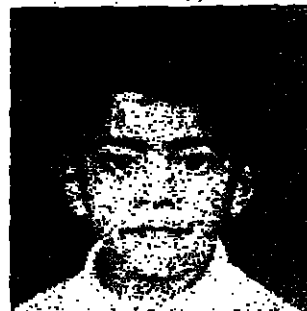
Melany Paul turned 7 on June 11



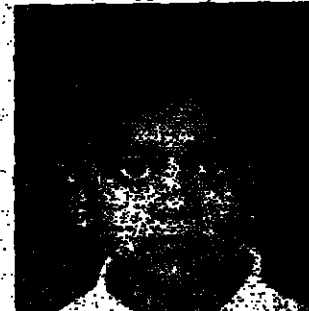
Marsha Adwani turned 6 on June 5



Eugene Pereira turned 3 on June 8



Graham D'Souza turns 7 on June 13



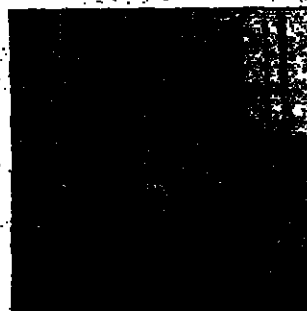
Gordon D'Souza turns 7 on June 13



Viren D'Souza turned 8 on June 6



Princy D'Souza turns 4 on June 11



Ranjeev Nayani turned 6 on June 7



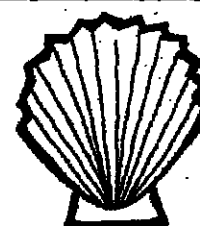
Sachin Kamath turned 8 on June 7

Print the two-letter digraph you hear at the beginning of the words. Color the pictures.



13

irteen



ell



umbo



ovel



eep



mole

England held to 1-1 draw

Ireland threaten Group F upset



England's Steve Bull (centre) tangles with two Ireland players. (Reuters wirephoto)



Lineker runs from Irish goal mouth after scoring the goal. (Reuters wirephoto)

Yugoslavs seek win against Colombia

BOLOGNA, June 12. (Reuters): Yugoslavia, paralysed by fear against West Germany according to coach Ivica Osim, must pull themselves out of a deep depression and beat Colombia on Thursday to keep alive their World Cup hopes.

"It is not easy for us to forget this defeat," said Osim who accused his players of acting like frightened rabbits in the 4-1 Group D loss to West Germany in Milan on Sunday.

"The players are pretty depressed," said 35-year-old striker Safet Susic.

"I hope they can recover in time," Susic added. "If we can't beat Colombia we really don't belong here."

Yugoslavia have not won a match since last October and Osim said the lack of success was largely due to an absence of unity in the team.

"Our players think first of how they can play for themselves and not how they can play together," said Osim.

"The West German game was one of our worst in the four years that I have been with the team."

Osim replaced veteran Susic with 21-year-old rising star Robert Prosinecki in Sunday's second half and said he was considering several changes in the starting line-up against Colombia, who have a two-point advantage after beating the United Arab Emirates in their first match.

"Something will be changed, of course, but at the moment I can't say what," said Osim, who likes to name his team at the last possible moment.

There has been speculation that goalkeeper Tomislav Ivkovic, whose fumbling led directly to West Germany's fourth goal in Milan, would be dropped for Thursday's match in Bologna but Osim refused to be drawn on the subject.

History is on Yugoslavia's side against Colombia. In 1962, on the only previous trip to the World Cup finals by the South Americans, Yugoslavia beat them 5-0.

But Colombian coach Francisco Maturana has scant regard for the history books.

"We are going to write a new history," said Maturana. "The difference between the team in 1962 and the team we have now is something like going from the Earth to the sky."

Colombia would be virtually certain of reaching the second round for the first time if they beat Yugoslavia but captain Carlos Valderrama said he realised victory would not be easy.

"I am sure we can take a point off the Yugoslavians though and then I think we can take second place in the group," said Valderrama who scored the second goal in the 2-0 win against the United Arab Emirates.

Probable teams:
Yugoslavia — Tomislav Ivkovic or Fahrudin Omerovic; Zoran Vulin, Mirsad Baljic, Predrag Spasic, Faruk Hadzibegic, Davor Zovic; Safet Susic or Robert Prosinecki, Srecko Kajanec, Dragan Stojkovic, Dejan Savicevic, Zlatko Vujovic.

Colombia — Rene Higuita; Luis Fernando Herrera, Luis Carlos Perea, Andres Escobar, Gildardo Gomez, Leonel Alvarez, Gabriel Gomez, Carlos Valderrama, Bernardo Redin — Carlos Enrique Estrada or Arnoldo Iguaran, Freddy Rincon.

Referee: Kickoff: Thursday, 6 pm (Kuwait Time)

CAGLIARI, June 12. (Reuters): Ireland, unbeaten in 14 internationals and fuelled by an extraordinary team spirit, proved they are no longer among the underdogs of world soccer when they held England to 1-1 draw in the World Cup yesterday.

Manager Jack Charlton's team, who beat England 1-0 in their European Championship meeting in Stuttgart two years ago, have lost only twice in the past three years and, according to England manager Bobby Robson, possess all the ingredients to threaten the Netherlands' expected domination of Group F.

"Ireland will be very difficult opponents for the Dutch," said Robson. "They were very lucky to beat them two years ago and this group is wide open now."

"Three teams qualify and that means both of us can. There is still a lot to play for and our match against Holland next Saturday will be quite different to the sort of game we saw tonight."

A late goal by Irish midfielder Kevin Sheedy, his sixth for Ireland, punished a mistake by England substitute Steve McMahon after 74 minutes to level the score after striker Gary Lineker had put England ahead with an opportunist goal in the eighth minute.

Lineker, who suffered stomach cramps in the second half, was substituted late in the game by Steve Bull, but by then it was too late for England to salvage victory on a night more memorable for its second-half thunderstorm and torrential rain than the quality of the soccer.

"The wind caused us problems in the first half," said Lineker. "And Ireland are not easy to play against. It may not be the prettiest sort of football to watch, but it is certainly effective."

England knew they needed to compete physically with the uncompromising Irish but were never able to dictate the course of the game.

Ireland deserved their point after a non-stop display of typically direct British-style soccer which was in direct contrast to most of the sophisticated play seen previously in the finals.

Charlton, whose claims that he is a part-time manager whose serious pursuits are fishing and shooting have been worn thin by his team's success, was delighted with Ireland's performance in their first-ever appearance in the World Cup finals.

"We don't have the best players of the best pattern-makers," he said. "But my players work hard and they hate to lose. I am delighted with our point. It was most important not to lose the first game."

"Now we must beat Egypt if we are to qualify for the second round. That is a must."

Midfielder Paul McGrath set a tremendous example for the Irish. He had one notable first half header well saved by England goalkeeper Peter Shilton and also thundered in a second half drive which flew just over the 40-year-old goalkeeper's bar as England sat back on their lead. This match marked Shilton's world record equalling 119th international.

After a thunderstorm early in the second half had given everyone, including the supporters of both teams, a thorough soaking, Ireland looked to be heading for a rare defeat when two substitutions changed the course of the game.

The first was the introduction by Ireland's English manager Jack Charlton of midfielder Alan McLoughlin for striker John Aldridge and the second, four minutes later, was the arrival of McMahon as England's tactical counter.

McMahon was the culprit only five minutes after his arrival of a terrible pass which left Sheedy with a clear opening from the edge of the penalty area.



Ireland goalkeeper Pat Bonner falls backward as Lineker (centre) scores. (Reuters wirephoto)



Gary Lineker stumbles after kicking the ball into the goal. (Reuters wirephoto)

Scots face another Cup failure

GENOA, June 12. (Reuters): Scotland were trying to pick themselves up today after a shock defeat to Costa Rica put the disaster-prone team in danger of another early World Cup exit.

"We face an uphill battle after this defeat," Scotland coach Andy Roxburgh conceded after his team went down 1-0 yesterday to the Central Americans, who were playing their first World Cup finals match.

"Now we must pick up the pieces and get our act together," said Roxburgh, who has ordered training behind closed doors at their retreat in the seaside resort of Rapallo, south of Genoa.

Scotland lived up to the worst fears of their Tartan Army of fans who have loyally followed the team in the last four World Cup campaigns, all ending in the first round.

In 1974, they were eliminated on goal difference after going through the group matches unbeaten but failing to produce a big enough victory over Zaire.

Four years later Scotland drew with Iran, fell to Peru and then surprised everybody by beating the Brazilians in their first match.

In Mexico four years ago, they finished bottom of a tough group when they were drawn with Denmark, West Germany and Uruguay. They have an overall record of just three wins in 18 matches in the finals.

"Of course our supporters are disappointed. So are we. But Costa Rica were a classic example of a defensive team, playing above their strengths, who counter-attacked and scored and whose goalkeeper had a brilliant evening," Roxburgh said.

The list of World Cup disasters, which also includes a 7-0 defeat to Uruguay in 1954, is so long the Scots could be accused of suffering a mental block when they play in the finals.



Irish players congratulate Sheedy. (Reuters wirephoto)

'Iron grip' security shows cracks

CAGLIARI, June 12. (Reuters): An 'iron grip' security operation to keep English soccer hooligans in check showed signs of weakness yesterday just hours before the start of England's opening match against Ireland in the World Cup finals.

In an ugly incident before the kick-off, about 200 chanting English fans among a group of 1,500 marching to Cagliari's Sant'Elia stadium chased and kicked green-shirted Irishmen as they fled up a grassy bank from church steps where they had sat peacefully all day.

No-one appeared injured in the brief outburst of violence near the St Saturninus Basilica, where Irish fans said they were praying for their team.

But police were nowhere in sight before the incident.

"The police have been nice to us but in this case there was no organisation at all," Ireland fan Eamonn Watson said.

He and other witnesses said the England fans had given Nazi-style salutes and shouted "no surrender to the IRA" (Irish Republican Army).

Italian authorities have mounted the biggest security operation

ever on the island of Sardinia for England's three Group F matches and had said groups of fans would be escorted to the stadium.

Most supporters were accompanied to the ground and entry, monitored by 1,600 police, was orderly.

But in one case, police accidentally brought lines of English and Irish fans together at the foot of an access bridge and had to rush

in reinforcements to form a preventive wedge between them.

Police on horseback with batons at the ready were on guard outside the stadium. Dozens of guard dogs were on patrol inside the ground and four Carabinieri paramilitary police helicopters whirled overhead.

All fans were rigorously searched, some to the extent that they had to take their socks off.

Any object considered offen-

sive by police had to be left outside the ground, though they appeared to have collected nothing more vicious than plastic bottles of sun tan oil and other paraphernalia.

Italian World Cup organisers have cut capacity of the 40,000 seat Sant'Elia stadium for England's matches by withholding 2,000 tickets from each of the three Group F matches to allow police to form security cordons between supporters.

But segregation of rival fans was less than total yesterday, with England flags draped alongside Ireland banners on Sant'Elia's upper tier.

Many English fans said tickets had been readily available from Italian touts in Cagliari.

The English Football Supporters' Association (FSA), which has set up an advice office in Cagliari, complained that local authorities had done little to organise facilities for supporters.

A FSA spokesman said the association was upset that no special transport appeared to have been provided to get fans out of Cagliari as soon as possible after the match so as to reduce the risk of clashes in the town.

Italian police stand among Irish and English fans. (Reuters wirephoto)

Costa Ricans celebrate first World Cup win

SAN JOSE, June 12. (Reuters): Thousands of Costa Ricans took to the streets of the capital yesterday to celebrate their country's surprising 1-0 victory over Scotland in its first ever World Cup appearance.

A cacophony of cheers and blaring car horns sounded across San Jose as conga-dancing fans parade through the streets and jammed into a downtown plaza to celebrate the Central American country's debut in the 24-nation world soccer championship.

The win by the Costa Rican side, which had been given little chance of making it into the

second round, appeared to stun even some of its most loyal fans.

"This is extraordinary," a euphoric President Rafael Angel Calderon, who watched the match at a San Jose movie theatre, told reporters. "This is driving us crazy with satisfaction."

The president, hoarse from shouting during the match, had given all government employees and Costa Rican students two hours off to watch it.

The streets of San Jose, normally swarmed with traffic at 9 am when the match began, were virtually deserted yesterday morning. But riotous cheers erupted in office buildings, bars and res-

taurants across the city when Costa Rican midfielder Juan Arnoldo Cayasso scored the match-winning goal just minutes into the second half.

The goal — and the carnival-like festivities that followed it — brought a sudden and unceremonious end to three days of national mourning declared by Calderon last Friday to mark the death of three-time former head of state Jose Figueres.

The mourning had been scheduled to end officially at midday. By noon, however, many people had already been dancing in the streets for over an hour.



Calderon (centre) holds the national flag as he walks downtown San Jose celebrating Costa Rica's victory. (Reuters wirephoto)



Costa Rica's Juan Arnoldo Cayasso (left) scores the only goal of the match. (Reuters wirephoto)



Scotland's Alan McNally (right) dribbles past two Costa Rican defenders. (Reuters wirephoto)

Romania hope Hagi will stop Cameroon

BARI, June 12. (Reuters): Star midfielder Gheorghe Hagi is Romania's main hope for putting an early end to the Cameroon fairy tale in their World Cup clash on Thursday.

"Cameroon's morale is high after beating Argentina in their first match and they think like winners," manager Emerich Jenei said.

"We have a difficult match against Cameroon. They are a good team, well balanced and fight hard in defence as well as attack."

Jenei is giving nothing away before the Group B match against the surprise team of the tournament but he will have Hagi available after missing Saturday's 2-0 victory over the Soviet Union through suspension.

Hagi, 25, has extravagant skills and some consider him Romania's best player ever. He links well with his former Steaua Bucharest team mate Marius Lacatus, the two-goal hero against the Soviet Union, and can turn a match with one touch.

"Hagi is an extra problem, although we work out our play to face teams not individuals. They are strong in midfield, which will be a big problem, and they are well organised," Cameroon's Soviet-born manager Valery Nepomniachy said.

But he said he was prepared for Romania and added secretively: "I have two plans, depending on how Romania plays."

Cameroon are full of confidence after a headed goal by striker Francois Omam Biyik sealed the 1-0 win against Argentina last Friday and raised their hopes of reaching the second round at the expense of one of the more fancied teams.

Cameroon hope to go one better than in their only other appearance at the World Cup finals when they went out after three first-round draws in Spain in 1982.

"Everything is possible. We beat Argentina and we are all ready to battle hard," midfielder Andre Kana Biyik said.

The team have taken the victory in their stride, relaxing by playing table tennis and table football at a hilltop retreat near the southern city of Bari where Thursday's match takes place.

But Andre Kana Biyik and defender Benjamin Massing will be missing because of one-match suspensions imposed after they were sent off against Argentina.

Kick off: Thursday — 6 pm (Kuwait time)

Today's matches

Uruguay vs Spain — 6 pm (Kuwait Time)
Argentina vs Soviet Union 10 pm
Both matches will be telecast live

Laimbeer lambasted for acting abilities

PORTLAND, Oregon, June 12 (AP) — The distracted Portland Trail Blazers were still moaning yesterday about Bill Laimbeer's pratfalls. While they did, Detroit's centre gloated.

His exaggerated dives Sunday — as if he were hit by a sledgehammer instead of elbow — worked perfectly. Not only did they draw fouls, they threw the Blazers off their game.

The effects were expected to linger when the Pistons took a 2-1 lead into this evening's fourth game of the NBA finals.

Laimbeer got the Trail Blazers' entire starting frontline in foul trouble Sunday when Detroit ended a 20-game losing streak in Portland with a 121-106 victory.

Blazers coach Rick Adelman said his team might have to change its approach to avoid Laimbeer's talent for directing the officials' attention to himself and drawing fouls.

Centre Kevin Duckworth, who had five fouls Sunday, might have to play less aggressively, a switch Laimbeer would welcome. Duckworth frequently showed his frustration and anger after being called for a foul.

"I told Duck, 'You can't do it. You can't put your arm out. He's going to flop,'" Adelman said.

The Pistons won Sunday without defensive and rebounding star Dennis Rodman, who has a sprained left ankle. He said he didn't expect to play much this evening, and Detroit coach Chuck Daly said he was "questionable" for the game, but "might be probable."

Joe Dumars, who played Sunday's game without knowing his father died after a long illness in Louisiana, 1-1/2 hours before it began, was expected to play. He remained in Portland, rather than flying to Detroit and Louisiana as originally announced by the club.

"It's Joe's decision" to stay, team-mate Isiah Thomas said. "It's a tough, emotional time for him."

Portland's Buck Williams, who fouled out Sunday, called Laimbeer "the king flopper" and said, "I'm sure I'll play with a little more aggression as far as my aggression goes."

But he said, "I'm not going to play passive."

"The officials have to beware of what he (Laimbeer) tries to do," Adelman said. "All he does is flail away and flop around."

But Williams and Adelman didn't blame the loss on Laimbeer's tactics.

Laimbeer, who did foul out with 3:15 to play, smiled at the Blazers' complaints.

"It probably means they lost," he said. "I took tremendous abuse. All the fouls were fouls, period."

"The bottom line is to win the basketball game," he added. "If that's taking a beating on the court, then that's what it takes. They tried to run me over, hit me, bash me upside the head. You can't tell me any different."

"I resent it being called flopping," Daly said. "There's not many players who are willing to stand in the lane and take the hit."

Some Trail Blazers expressed admiration for Laimbeer's ability to call attention to contact.

"Your first intention to get angry is not at him," it's at the referees because they missed the call," Duckworth said.

England-New Zealand Test heading for a draw

Atherton survives Hadlee scare



Hadlee: had England in trouble

NOTTINGHAM, England, June 12 (Reuters) — Mike Atherton almost certainly consigned the rain-hit first Test against New Zealand to a draw but at the same time staked a claim to a long international career with England yesterday.

By the time bad light ended play shortly before the scheduled close, the 22-year-old Lancashire batsman had made 78 not out as England reached 187 for five in their first innings in reply to New Zealand's 208.

With only one day of the five-day match remaining, a result appeared impossible.

Atherton, playing in only his third Test, gave only one chance in almost six hours at the crease and appeared unaffected by watching both captain Graham Gooch and vice-captain Allan Lamb dismissed at the other end without scoring.

Gooch went first ball on Saturday by world record wicket-taker

Richard Hadlee and it was the New Zealand paceman who again threatened to wreck the England batting when play resumed yesterday.

In the space of four balls he got Alec Stewart for 27 and Lamb to leave England in trouble at 45 for three.

But the dogged Atherton and Robin Smith guided the home team out of trouble with a stand of 96 and by the time Smith was finally dismissed for 55 New Zealand's hope of an England collapse had disappeared.

Atherton gave one chance after making 52 when he edged seamer Martin Snedden into the slips but in the main played with text book defence on a pitch still giving help to the seamers.

His Lancashire team mate Neil Fairbrother, who had accumulated only five runs in four previous test innings, fared less well.

He never looked comfortable

while scratching his way to 19 and after 48 minutes at the crease edged Snedden to Trevor Franklin at third slip.

Jack Russell was the other undefeated batsman at the close with four.

Scoreboard

NEW ZEALAND first innings 208 (M. Crowe 59; P. Delfino 55 for 53).
ENGLAND first innings (overnight) four for one wicket.
G. Gooch lbw b Hadlee 0
M. Atherton not out 78
A. Stewart c Smith b Hadlee 27
A. Lamb lbw b Hadlee 0
R. Smith c Smith b Bracewell 55
N. Fairbrother c Franklin b Snedden 19
J. Russell not out 4
Extras (b-2 nb-2) 4
Total (for five wickets) 187
Fall of wickets: 1-0 2-43 3-45 4-141 5-168.
To bat: P. Delfino, G. Small, E. Hemmings, D. Nicol.
Bowling to date: Hadlee 24-4-62-3, Morrison 12-1-57-0, Snedden 28-14-27-1, Bracewell 23-5-38-1, Priest 1-0-1-0.



Greg Thomas



Chris Tavare

Waugh hits fourth century for Essex

LONDON, June 12 (Reuters) — Australian Mark Waugh scored his fourth century in seven championship innings for Essex on the second day of their three-day county match against Warwickshire yesterday.

Waugh cracked nine fours and a six as he made 103 in helping Essex reach 331 for five before declaring at the close of play in the rain-hit match.

The other main contribution came from opener John Stephenson but his 85 took 330 minutes. He scored only 29 in a third-wicket stand of 134 with Waugh.

Paceman Greg Thomas demolished his former county Glamorgan with a career-best seven for 75 to give Northamptonshire a useful first innings lead in their match at Northampton.

The former Test bowler ripped into the middle order with four wickets, including the vital one of Viv Richards, in 25 balls soon after lunch. He later accounted for Matthew Maynard, whose batting 74 was mainly responsible for Glamorgan totalling 259.

That left Northants with a first innings lead of 91 and by the close they had extended that to 182 as they reached 91 for two by the close.

Former Kent captain Chris Tavare missed out on a century by 18 runs at Canterbury but then watched his bowlers reduce Kent to 121 for five in reply to Somerset's 322 for five declared.

Jeremy Hallett, playing in only his second championship game, snapped up the vital wickets of Simon Hinks and Chris Cowdrey as Kent stumbled in reply.

Scores

At Northampton: Northamptonshire 350 for eight declared in 96.2 overs and 91 for two (N. Felton 44). Glamorgan 259 in 86 overs (H. Morris 80, M. Maynard 74, R. Butcher 43; G. Thomas seven for 75).

At Old Trafford: Gloucestershire 280 for seven (G. Hodgson 72, P. Bainbridge 72, K. Curran 48) v Lancashire.

At Canterbury: Somerset 322 for five declared in 96 overs (G. Cowdrey 42).

At Edgbaston: Essex 331 for five declared in 120.1 overs (M. Waugh 103, J. Stephenson 85, N. Shahid 75 not out) v Warwickshire.

At Harrogate: Yorkshire 20 for seven off 81 overs (P. Robinson 71 not out) v Surrey.

Matthew Maynard

John Stephenson

Dunleavy replaces Riley

INGLEWOOD, California, June 12 (AP) — Pat Riley left the head coaching job of the Los Angeles Lakers yesterday, after directing the team to four National Basketball Association championship in nine seasons, a 73.3 winning per centage and more than 100 playoff victories.

The Lakers announced at a news conference that Riley was leaving his job and introduced Milwaukee Bucks assistant coach Mike Dunleavy as Riley's replacement.

Dunleavy, a veteran NBA guard who last played regularly during the 1984-85 season, becomes a head coach for the first time.

All Filipino tennis games

THE 1990-All Filipino Tennis Tournament will start on Thursday, June 14, 5pm at the Holiday Inn Hotel. The schedule of the Thursday and Friday games are as follows:

Thursday — June 14.
Court No. 1: 5pm — 6pm A. Buzon vs E. Llanes; 6pm — 7pm D. Acido vs J. Concepcion; 7pm — 8pm L. Ramos vs S. Perez; 8pm — 9pm L. Lumayag vs W. Maranan.
Court No. 2: 5pm — 6pm A. Orozco vs D. Catacutan; 6pm — 7pm J. Parayno vs D. Arguilla; 7pm — 8pm F. Paguyo vs H. Tampas; 8pm — 9pm R. Ventura vs R. Piola.

Friday — June 15.
Court No. 1: 5pm — 6pm G. Nuevo vs F. Pentecoste; 6pm — 7pm N. Villar vs C. Briones; 7pm — 8pm R. Doliente vs A. Delizo; 8pm — 9pm F. Una vs L. Duque.
Court No. 2: 5pm — 6pm H. Babalo vs A. Arbisio; 6pm — 7pm R. Mercado vs R. Tabuada; 7pm — 8pm B. Clemeno vs J. Alberto; 8pm — 9pm N. Ruiz vs N. Villanueva.

All players are requested to be at the court one hour before their scheduled matches. In case of defaults, the next match will be started immediately, thus saving us valuable time. Default time of 10 minutes after the scheduled time or 10 minutes after the last match (in case they overshoot their time limit) will be strictly enforced.

This tournament is organised by Kay and Associates Tennis Club. The Principal sponsors are National Bank of Kuwait, Kuwait Tourism and Shipping Corp. and Al Rashid Freight in co-operation with City Exchange/Far East Bank, Mahabuy Restaurant and Saloon, Holiday Inn Hotel and Canada Dry, the official softdrink of the tournament.

For inquiries on the schedules, call Danny Felix — 3901061, Rod Mendoza — 5339879 and Ed Samia — 5339587.

Ecuadoreans to honour Gomez

Wimbledon to get safety certificate next week

QUITO, Ecuador, June 12 (Agencies) — Andres Gomez, who beat Andre Agassi to win the French Open men's title last weekend, will be decorated by the Ecuadorian government and President Rodrigo Borja sent him a telex congratulating him.

It was the 30-year-old Gomez' first Grand Slam title in his 11-year professional career. Gomez, a native of Guayaquil who was seeded fourth in the two-week tournament at Roland Garros Stadium, has been consistently ranked in the top 20 in the world since 1981, except for 1988 when he slipped to 43rd.

Borja signed yesterday a decree giving the National Order of Merit to Gomez. He will be decorated in a special ceremony when he returns from Paris this week, the government said.

Sunday night, Borja sent a telex to Paris, with congratulations to Gomez, remarking that "your tenacity and effort are an inspiration for Ecuadorians."

The last great Ecuadorian tennis player was Pancho Segura, a former coach of Jimmy Connors. Segura's best Grand Slam results were four semifinal finishes at the US Open between 1942 and 1945.

The last South American to win a Grand Slam title was Guillermo Vilas of Argentina, who won the US open in 1977, the same year Vilas won also at the French Open.

The All-England Lawn Tennis Club will

likely receive its safety certificate next Monday, just a week before Boris Becker launches his defense of the Wimbledon grand Slam tennis title, local officials said yesterday.

"Wimbledon has always complied exactly with the requirements of the safety of sports grounds act, and we are sure that will be the case again this time," said a spokesman for Merton County Council, where Wimbledon is located.

The All-England club has had to change centre and No 1 courts to comply with new regulations prohibiting standing room at sports grounds.

The laws were designed to prevent disasters such as the one at Sheffield's Hillsborough soccer stadium in 1989, when 95 people were crushed to death in overcrowded stands.

Doing away with standing room for centre court marks the end of a tradition for the grand slam tournament. In the past, the standing room tickets were sold daily to those patient enough to wait in line, often throughout the night, to see the world's top players in action.

The outside show courts, Nos 2, 3, 13 and 14, which used to be open to anyone with a daily tickets, will require special tickets for admission, and spectators won't be allowed to crowd the walkway around No 1 court.



Gomez: French Open champion

Cash crashes out in opener



Cash: eliminated

LONDON, June 12 (Reuters) — Pat Cash suffered another setback in his Wimbledon build-up when he crashed out of the London Grass Court Tennis Championships in the first round at Queen's Club yesterday.

After a long absence due to an Achilles tendon injury, the popular 25-year-old Australian, who won Wimbledon in 1987, is finding the road back difficult to negotiate and a 6-4 1-6 6-4 defeat by the American Paul Chamberlin hardly improved matters.

"It was pretty hard going out there today and I still don't seem able to quite put it all together," he admitted. "I thought I was hitting the ball well if sometimes inaccurately."

"I seem to hit two good shots but then one bad one when there is no reason whatsoever why I should not be hitting three or four good balls in a game."

Cash was defaulted at the Beckenham grass court event last week when he was late turning up — not entirely his own fault, it now transpires — for a scheduled match with Stefan Edberg. His defeat yesterday means he missed the chance of meeting Boris Becker in the second round.

"Luck is not exactly with me at the moment but it will surely turn," he added. "I need more matches to get myself mentally right. Physically, I'm in pretty shape after working hard in training."

A defeat against the 28-year-old Californian, however, was not as bad as it sounds. It took Becker to stop the American in the quarter-finals at Wimbledon last year, since when his game has improved.

Malaysia to host table tennis meet

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia, June 12 (AP) — Malaysia will host the 10th Asian Table Tennis Championships Dec 5-12, replacing Jordan as host after the Middle East nation withdrew from staging the event originally scheduled for next month.

Table Tennis Association of Malaysia (TTAM) president Michael Chen told reporters the Asian Table Tennis Union (ATTU) had agreed to the new date.

More than 25 countries, including China, Japan, Malaysia, Indonesia, India, Hong Kong, Thailand, the Philippines, Bahrain, Iran, Jordan, Kuwait, South Korea, North Korea and Singapore will send about 400 players and officials are expected to compete in the biennial meet, he told a press conference here.

Malaysia last played host to the tournament in 1978.

The eight-day, seven-division event, will be held at the Kuala Lumpur badminton stadium.

McLaren continues to dominate Formula One

MONTREAL, June 12 (Reuters) — Ayrton Senna's comfortable victory in Sunday's Canadian Grand Prix motor race should put to rest any thought that McLaren is losing its edge in the 1990s.

When drivers from three different teams — McLaren, Ferrari and Williams — won the first three races this year, there seemed to be great hope among the Formula One fraternity of the first wide-open, competitive championship in years.

With Senna's back-to-back victories in Monaco and Canada however, McLaren, with a third of the season behind them, appear set to run away with their third successive constructors' title and have left the competition wondering what they must do to close the gap.

"I will compliment McLaren because when you have a problem with a gear box in Monaco and here and still win it's pretty good," said Ferrari's Nigel Mansell, who finished an encouraging third in Montreal behind Nelson Piquet's Benetton after an exciting duel for second place.

But fighting for second with Benetton and Williams may be the best Ferrari can hope for this year if Sunday's race is any



Senna leads Berger during Sunday's race.

indication. Both Mansell and Alain Prost finished in the points to put Ferrari a distant second for the constructors' title.

But neither driver ever challenged Senna, whose only serious competition would have

come from Berger in the second McLaren if the Austrian had not been assessed a one-minute penalty for jumping the start.

Even with that huge disadvantage, Berger was able to make up enough time in his Honda-powered car to overtake Prost

and claim fourth place to give McLaren 50 points and a 29-point lead over Ferrari after five rounds.

If Berger continues to make tactical errors it will take a miracle to keep Senna from winning his second drivers' champion-

ship in three years. "Having won three races out of five, having led five races out of five is something that shows that you've got potential," Senna said with obvious understatement.

But the fiercely competitive Brazilian was not ready to declare the 1990 championship a foregone conclusion despite his 12-point lead over Berger.

Senna has 31 points to the Austrian's 19 with defending champion Prost third on 14 points.

"We have so many races ahead that it's too early to talk about the championship. There's a long way to go and it's going to be tough," said Senna, who continues to insist that the competition is closing in on McLaren.

"You have to be careful about predictions," he added. "We have to work hard and concentrate."

Mansell promised Ferrari would do better in Mexico in two weeks.

But when the Briton, who prepared to get on quite well with Senna on Sunday's winners' podium, was asked if he would like to be Senna's team and drive for McLaren next year he said,

"If we have a car that can win every race, yeah, no problems."

Ryan pitches 6th no-hitter

OAKLAND, California, June 12 (Reuters) — Texas Rangers pitcher Nolan Ryan ran his Major League record for no-hit games to six yesterday, frustrating the defending champion Oakland Athletics and defying time itself.

The 43-year-old right-hand fireballer, in his second start since returning from an injury, struck out 14 batters and walked two in the 5-0 Texas victory.

Ryan, baseball's all-time strikeout king, threw 130 pitches. In the climactic ninth inning, Oakland pinch-hitter Ken Phelps struck out, the speedy Rickey Henderson was thrown out on a slow grounder to short and Willie Randolph fouled out.

Henderson, the American League's leading hitter, had given Ryan his closest call with a hard line drive to centre in the sixth inning that Gary Pettis came in to catch.

Ryan at 43 years four months and 11 days is the oldest man to throw a Major League no-hitter. The next oldest was Cy Young who did it at the age of 41 years and three months on June 30, 1908.

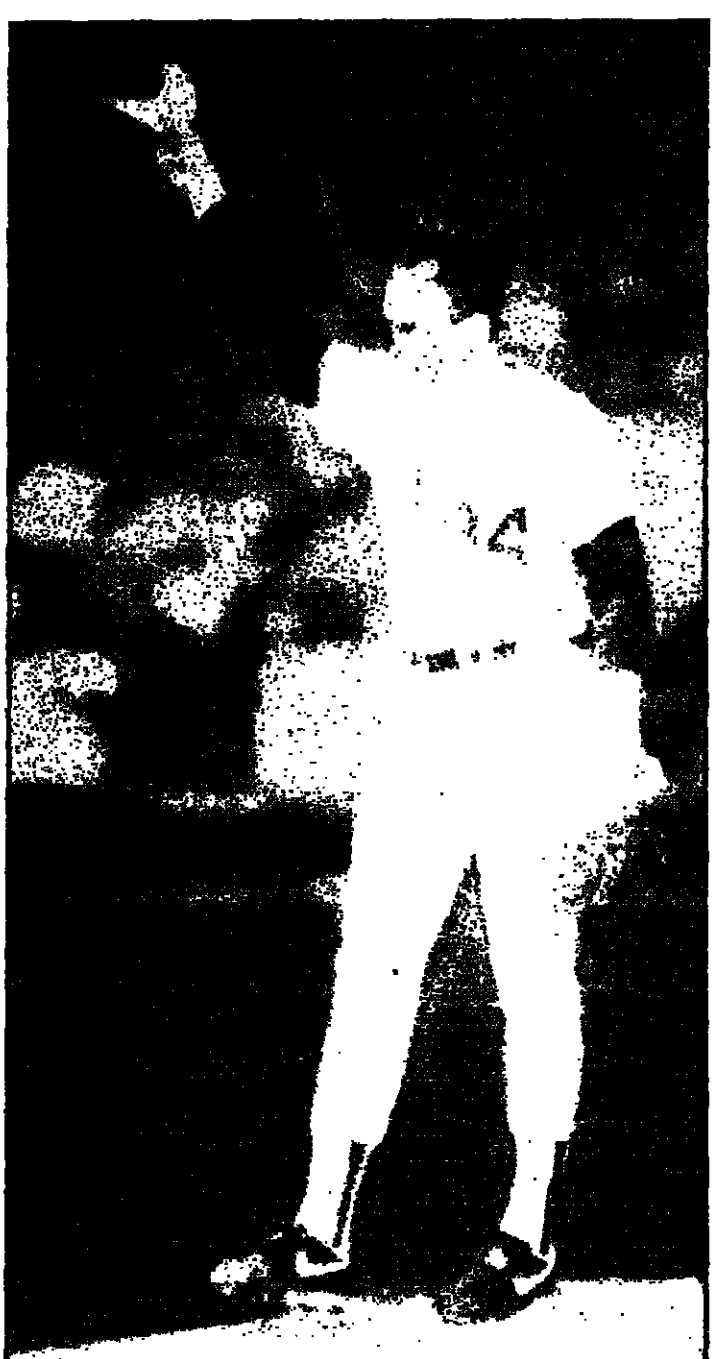
Ryan's previous no-hitter was on September 26, 1981 against the Los Angeles Dodgers. He was a Houston Astro then, after stints with the New York Mets and the California Angels.

He had a one-hitter against the Chicago White Sox on April 26 — his 12th complete-game one-hitter.

Ryan now has 59 shutouts. Sandy Koufax is second on the all-time no-hitter list with four.

Results

American League		
Texas	5	Oakland 0
Cleveland	4	Boston 3
Milwaukee	4	Toronto 1
Chicago WS	3	Seattle 1
California	3	Kansas City 2
National League		
Montreal	5	Philadelphia 0
Montreal F	3	Philadelphia 2
San Francisco	8	Atlanta 3
Chicago Cubs	8	N.Y. Mets 5
Pittsburgh F	8	St. Louis 7
Houston	5	Los Angeles 3



Ryan waves his cap to the crowd

Argentina may not survive first round, says Maradona

ROME, June 12, (Reuters): Diego Maradona believes defending champions Argentina are not in the same class as the World Cup favourites and could even fail to survive the first round.

Speaking at the squad's Trigroria

training camp, Maradona was asked whether Argentina, devastated by a first match defeat against lowly Cameroon, could compete with the World Cup favourites.

"No, unfortunately the reality is different and we should not hide the

fact. The reality is that we are not at the same level as Italy, Brazil and West Germany," he said.

He added: "Argentina must think above all about qualifying from the first round. Before the cup began this was taken as real but now it might

even slip away from us.

"There is still such sadness inside us over the defeat by Cameroon, but we can't stay like this. We must find the strength to recover."

Maradona said the younger players must wake up and show they deserved

the confidence of veteran members of the team.

Unlike Brazil and Uruguay, he said, Argentina had been unable to build a new top class team after the Mexico World Cup.

Maradona said of Cameroon's

goal: "I felt as if someone had broken my legs. I was empty inside. I could not believe what had happened. It was a tragedy for everyone, especially us older players who did not expect such a humiliation."

Maradona said the Naples crowd,

who worship him as a hero after he took Napoli to a Second League title, could play a major role in helping Argentina do well against the Soviet Union tomorrow.

Fans have promised to make the San Paolo Stadium tremble.

SPORTS BRIEFS

World Cup results

VERONA, June 12, (Reuters): Belgium drew first blood in the World Cup's toughest first round group when they beat South Korea 2-0 today.

Goals from Marc Degryse and Michel De Wolf in the 52nd and 64th minutes gave the Belgians the perfect start in Group E which also includes Spain and Uruguay.

In Palermo, European champions The Netherlands were sensationally held 1-1 by outsiders Egypt in their opening World Cup Group F match today.

Wim Kieft opened the scoring for the favourites in the 58th minute but Magdi Abdel-Ghany levelled from the penalty spot seven minutes from time.

Scotland win

INVERCARGILL, New Zealand, June 12, (Reuters): Scotland turned on a running game for the first time on their rugby union tour of New Zealand, cruising to a 45-12 win over First Division team Southland at Invercargill's rugby park today.

The tourists exploded into action in the second half to rack up 33 points, maintaining their unbeaten record in their first five tour matches.

Climber dies

TALKEETNA, Alaska, June 12, (AP): The first climbing death of the 1990s on Mount McKinley was recorded Sunday night when a Japanese man died a thousand feet (about 300 metres) below the summit while rescuers rushed to his aid.

The national park service said Hironaka Ito spent almost two days stranded without a tent at the 19,000-foot (5,795 metres) level of the mountain.

Brazilian coach

ASTI, Italy, June 12, (UPI): Brazilian coach Sebastiao Lazaroni today said he had no intention of changing his squad's current strategy for its next World Cup Group C game against Costa Rica June 16, despite the Central Americans' upset 1-0 win against Scotland.

"In principle that's my plan, because if we were to change four or five players now that could upset our rhythm," Lazaroni said.

English team

CAGLIARI, Italy, June 12, (UPI): England manager Bobby Robson said today that nobody should gauge his team's true World Cup potential based on how it played in a disappointing 1-1 draw against the Republic of Ireland in a first round Group F match yesterday.

"It is too early to make a judgement based on a bruising match which, I agree, was not my idea of good football," said Robson.

Italian League

ERBA, Italy, June 12, (Reuters): West German team chief Franz Beckenbauer today paid tribute to the Italian League soccer system in which five of his team have flourished.

Beckenbauer said it was more serious and more professional than the Bundesliga.

Local hooligans

CAGLIARI, June 12, (Reuters): Police in Cagliari today said they would crack down on local hooligans who tried to pick fights with English soccer fans at the World Cup finals.

"We will not tolerate hooliganism from fans of any country, including Italy," said deputy police chief Antonio Pitea, who is co-ordinating a huge security operation for England's three Group F matches.

Portuguese star

LISBON, June 12, (Reuters): A Portuguese soccer star who might have been supporting his Benfica teammates at the World Cup in Italy could only watch them on television yesterday as he began a 75-day prison sentence for avoiding his military service.

Midfielder Vitor Paneira, whose team were 1990 European Cup finalists, was 21 days late in reporting for his 16 months compulsory military service in September 1988 and was found guilty of desertion.

Belgium defeat S. Korea

Scottish defender sent home



Belgian goalie Michel Preud'Homme makes a save. (Reuters wirephoto)



Stephana Demol of Belgium (right) brings down S. Korea's Soon-Hong Hwang. (Reuters wirephoto)

VERONA, Italy, June 12, (AP): Striker Marc Degryse and defender Michel de Wolf broke down the tough South Korean defense to give Belgium a 2-0 win today in its opening World Cup match.

Playmaker Enzo Scifo orchestrated the offense in the Group E match, but bad luck and the tough — often rough — South Korean defense kept Belgium from adding more goals.

In the 52nd minute, Scifo made a brilliant blind volley pass to Degryse who spotted goalie Choi In-Yong charging towards him. From 35 metres out, Degryse lofted the ball over the goalie's head and it bounded into the net.

Twelve minutes later, the South Korean defense gave De Wolfe too much space and he rifled a swerving, 25-metre drive past Choi.

South Korea couldn't change its tactics to push forward and Belgian experience did the rest to keep the team at bay.

It took well over an hour before South Korea could even get its first shot on goal.

South Korea's much-touted star playmaker Kim Joo-Sung never was a factor.

"Belgium has its first two points in its pocket, that is the most important," said coach Guy Thys. "But I would have loved to see a couple of more goals."

Belgium's confidence grew throughout the match and Scifo, 24, often reviled in the past for being too slow and fickle, proved himself a leader of the veteran team.

The Belgians sometimes played with the poise it showed when it finished fourth in Mexico

four years ago.

Belgium dominated, even hit the post with one header, but failed to score in the first half as the South Korean defense clamped down on the forwards with often ruthless abandon.

Bruno Versavel came close to scoring twice in the first six minutes.

"It was such terrible bad luck," said Thys. "But after that our game stalled until halftime."

First, Versavel's shot on target appeared to be handled in the penalty area, but US referee Vicente Mauro didn't blow the whistle.

A minute later, Versavel's bad luck continued as he met the cross of Marc Emmers with a strong header that hit the post.

Belgium broke out again early in the second half and a goalkeeping error from Choi allowed Degryse to score with his subtle lob.

"Luckily we had this early goal and we kept everything cool after that," said Thys.

Scottish defender Richard Gough, suffering from a complicated right-foot injury, flew home for medical treatment today and was ruled out for the rest of the World Cup.

"He won't return. There is no chance that he can play again," Scottish manager Andy Roxburgh told a news conference.

Gough, who twice had surgery on the pad of his right foot, was accompanied by an official of his club team, the Rangers of Glasgow, on the afternoon flight from Genoa, Scottish officials said.

Gough, 28, is one of the team's best defenders and has played 50 games for Scotland.



An Argentina trainer (left) keeps a close watch on the team led by Maradona. (Reuters wirephoto)

Argentina make five changes

TRIGORIA, Italy, June 11, (Reuters): Coach Carlos Bilardo yesterday announced an unprecedented string of five Argentine team changes for tomorrow's crucial World Cup Group B match against the Soviet Union.

He picked winger Claudio Caniggia as captain Diego Maradona's attacking partner, dropping Abel Balbo who fumbled two clear chances when the World champions were shocked 1-0 by Cameroon in the opening match of the tournament on Friday.

Argentina and the Soviet Union, who were upset 2-0 by Romania on Saturday, will be looking for their first points when they clash at the Sao Paolo stadium in Naples.

Naming his team after a training session at Argentina's retreat outside Rome, Bilardo set the tone for the key encounter when he said: "With the Soviet Union it will be like the first final of the tournament."

"This is as if we'd got past the group stage and the matches were decisive. You stay or you go."

Both teams will retain a mathematical chance of staying in the tournament even if they lose, but Bilardo is keen to win the group and ensure that Argentina remain in Naples in the second round.

Bilardo, who never made more than two changes for any match as Argentina swept to the 1986 title in Mexico, said he had decided to opt for stronger, more mature defenders and quicker midfielders.

The tall Jose Serrizuela, of Argentine champions River



Carlos Menem

Plate, who is strong coming forward and a free-kick specialist, replaces the injured Oscar Ruggeri as stopper.

Serrizuela, who has moved into the limelight at River Plate where coach and former Argentine skipper Daniel Passarella made him captain, earns only his fourth cap.

Independiente's Pedro Monzon, a tall, steady defender, also steps in at the back for Nestor Fabri.

Bilardo aims to get quicker progress through midfield with

31-year-old 1986 veteran Julio Olarticochea of Racing Club and Pedro Troiglio of Italy's Lazio on the flanks, bringing them in for Nestor Lorenzo and Roberto Sensi.

Argentina's president Carlos Menem yesterday criticised the Argentine soccer team which was beaten 1-0 by Cameroon, but added that the title-holders could improve with a few changes.

"Cameroon is the dark horse in the World Cup. They performed better than we did, they ran fast and played hard... Argentina played poorly, very poorly," Menem, who was at Friday's match in Milan, told reporters at government house.

Nevertheless Menem, 59, who shortly after taking office last year donated shorts and boots to play with the Argentine team in a charity match, said he was still optimistic about his country's chances.

"With a few changes in the team, things may change," said Menem, who in April tried unsuccessfully to persuade Bilardo to name more forwards to break Argentina's goal drought.

On returning to Argentina from Italy on Sunday, Menem scoffed at reporters' suggestions he might have brought bad luck to the team by attending the opening match.

Argentine media openly joke about their leader's supposed jinx, often listing the misfortunes that befall people linked to him.

"I was in the stadium but I didn't play the match. That would be like blaming the Soviet Union's loss to Romania on (Soviet leader Mikhail) Gorbachev," Menem said.

Spain set to face Uruguay

UDINE, Italy, June 12, (AP): If either Spain or Uruguay win their debut World Cup clash tomorrow it could well go on to finish first in Group E ahead of top seed Belgium and underdog South Korea.

But while the two countries are fielding their most offensively talented teams in years, fear of losing could turn the match into a stalemate, at least at the start.

"Neither team is going to come out desperately looking for a goal," according to Spanish coach Luis Suarez, whose squad practised in the drizzling rain today at Friuli Stadium, site of the 1500 GMT (6 pm Kuwait time) game tomorrow.

Uruguayan coach Oscar Tabarez, who went to Verona today to see the opening Group E match between Belgium and South Korea, also said he foresaw a tough game.

"We do not intend to play to the crowd, but according to our own interests," Tabarez said, although he added: "You can generate offense without leaving the defense unguarded."

Uruguay reached the finals of the South American national team championships last year on the strength of the technical prowess players like strikers Ruben Sosa and Enzo Francescoli, two of the eight team members who played on European clubs last season.

But the 1930 and 1950 World Cup champion is trying to overcome a lingering reputation for plodding, rough play and faces immense pressure to live up to its glorious past. Uruguay also faces Spain without one of its best performers, midfielder Santiago Ostolaza, who is recovering from a thigh injury.

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Unity outlast Flying Arrows to capture hockey crown

UNITY defeated Flying Arrows by 2-1 on Friday in the finals of the Kuwait Independent Cup, at the Ahmad Al Jassbi grounds, to lift the second hockey trophy in as many weeks.

Despite the hot weather, both teams dished out an excellent calibre of hockey. Unity, having had most of the ball possession, dominated the game.

In the first half Unity's out side right Ahmed, who had an outstanding game, received a through ball from captain (Ikhbar) Amjed dribbled past a defender but his shot deflected off the goal post. Within minutes Unity counter-attacked and this time Arif Junior, having beaten the goalkeeper, passed the ball to Moin whose shot couldn't be saved by a diving Sunil.

Flying Arrows, known for their lightning qualities, counter-attacked and forced a penalty corner which was aptly stopped but unmarked Joel misused the pass and lost a golden opportunity to equalise.

Not to be deterred by this setback, Flying Arrows continued their onslaught through their outstanding midfielder Trevor and again forced a penalty corner. This time an identical move paid dividends and Joel ratified his earlier mistake by perfectly timing the shot and catching goalkeeper Tony out of position to level the scores for his team.

After lemon-time, both teams went all out for the winner and on various occasions Unity's Moin displaying classic dribbling skills, made his way into the Flying Arrows' defence but couldn't convert any of the chances.

One such move saw Moin crack the ball home. Goalkeeper Isaac dived to stop the ball but in the bargain saw it touch the back of his stick and umpire Elias Santimano awarded a penalty stroke, which was aptly converted by Arif Snr.

Shivi Basin presented the prizes after the game.

Faldo tipped to win

CHICAGO, Illinois, June 12, (Reuters): Despite his poor performance at the weekend, Briton Nick Faldo is still the favourite to lift the US Open which begins at Medinah Country Club on Thursday and complete half of golf's Grand Slam.

The double US Masters champion considers the Grand Slam — Masters, Open, British Open and US PGA — as "very, very difficult" but not impossible.

Faldo has placed a £100 (\$170) bet on himself to complete the quest at odds of 250-1 with a British bookmaker and says he will give the winnings to charity if he succeeds.

In Las Vegas, the capital of gambling, bookmakers make Faldo 5-1 favourite to win the second major title of the year over the Medinah course which is rated by the US Golf Association as the second toughest in the country.

If Faldo does win the \$1.2 million Open he will be the first Briton to take the title since Tony Jacklin in 1970, but he did not look impressive in the Western Open in Chicago at the weekend. He shot a 291 four-round total to finish 16 shots behind winner Wayne Levi of the US.

While Faldo considers the possibility of becoming the first player to win the Grand Slam, American Curtis Strange is aiming to become only the second player to complete a hat-trick of US Open victories.

But his form since the Masters in April where he was joint seventh, has been erratic, with only two top-10 placings in four tournaments. He has dropped from fourth to fifth in the world rankings.



Faldo (left) with Strange at last year's US Open.

Punj rallies to outclass Abu Wishah

IN sand-swept, blistering hot conditions play opened at the Kuwait International Hotel's tennis courts on Sunday. Fifth seeded Peter Punj toughed out a three set victory over Sameer Abu Wishah 2-6 2-6 1-1 in what turned out to be a test of stamina.

In other action, Bader Aki Ali upset Mikolaj Laczynski 6-2 6-1. Khalid Al Qasbi defeated Khalid Al Alami 6-0 6-0. Radd Haddad rolled over Mayasad Abbas 6-1 6-1. Khalid Al Gharbally sailed by Aakash Gulati 6-1 6-6. Vijay Bala defeated Michael Parsula 6-2 6-2. Jim Beaurgard edged out Sameer Soneil Issa 7-5 6-4. Andrea Negri beat Abdullah Al Masri 6-2 6-0.

On the following day, Andrea Negri and Urosh Lukic defeated Fathi Al Sabri and Abdullah Al Masri 6-0 6-0. Zain Al Sabah earned a 6-3 6-2 win over Isahel Quintero. Bader Aki Bader defeated Yousuf Tugan 6-0 6-0. Nishant Dabral and Omar Siddiqui grinded out a 6-7 (4-7) 6-4 6-3 victory over Mikolaj Laczynski and Michael Parsula. Marc Zacherl defeated Ehab Sami 6-1 6-0. Ahmed Labib stopped Alim Malova 6-1 7-5. Fathi Al Sabri cruised by Omar Siddiqui 6-0 6-0. Amara Labib defeated Maali Majied 6-2 6-0.

The tournament has been organised for junior athletes under the age of 16 to give them a break after a gruelling period of exams. It is being held in singles and doubles categories and is being sponsored by Pepsi Cola. Play continues through until Friday from 3:00 pm onwards. Spectators are welcome. An elaborate awards ceremony will close the tournament following the finals on June 15.

Germans released after being sentenced



Three W. German fans cover their faces while sitting behind a lattice in the Milan court. (Reuters wirephoto)

MILAN, June 12, (Reuters): Five West German soccer fans were each handed two-year jail terms today for fighting and vandalism in Milan during the worst outbreak of World Cup hooliganism but immediately released.

They were also banned from any of the 12 World Cup cities during the rest of the month-long competition, court officials said.

The five, aged between 20 and 31, were arrested after 1,000 West Germans, some armed with bricks and steel bars, ran wild in Italy's business capital on Sunday, smashing shop windows, damaging underground railway stations and fighting with riot police.

The incidents occurred both before and after West Germany's

4-1 victory over Yugoslavia in the World Cup first round.

The fans were released under a plea bargaining arrangement after being convicted on charges ranging from resisting arrest to malicious damage and carrying weapons.

Defence lawyers said they were likely to return immediately to West Germany.

Another eight West Germans arrested on Sunday appeared in court today in handcuffs and under strong police escort to face charges including resisting arrest and malicious damage. One was accused of carrying a knife and a mace stun spray.

They were aged from 20 to 30 and three had skinhead haircuts. They all denied the charges.